Courts reinstate Woodruff. PAGE 2

Fire Academy graduation set for December. PAGE 3

$1

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

Volume XXXI, Issue No. 214

THURSDAY OCTOBER 28, 2021
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ADOPT-A-MEDIAN INITIATIVE
Crew from the Saipan Mayor's Office clean up and repaint the median, barrier, and curbs of the intersection at the Quartermaster Road and Beach Road. The Saipan Mayor's Office staff led the Public Private Partnership's Adopt-A-Median activities last Oct. 16, together with Shirley's Coffee Shop and the Shirley's Football Club.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Increased benefits for NAP recipients beginning Nov. 1

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service and the CNMI have signed a memorandum of understanding that will grant $30 million for the CNMI Nutrition Assistance Program and will increase benefit amounts for NAP recipients, expand eligibility, and create a contingency reserve fund for the CNMI, effective Nov. 1, 2021.

See INCREASED on Page 4

RELATED NEWS

➤ Kilili: More eligible for food stamps; up to 23% benefit increase OK'd. PAGE 2

Time to implement an effective waste management system in the Marianas

TRASH TALK
By GARY SWORD
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Let's talk trash, but no filthy words, only rubbish talk. We should start with a clear picture of our current garbage situation then work together in addressing its serious health, environmental, and economic threats to the Marianas.

See PAGE 9

Fuel up 15 cents in less than 2 weeks

The CNMI saw another increase in fuel prices yesterday, with fuel up another 15 cents less than two weeks since the last price increase.

Mobil Oil took the lead late afternoon yesterday after it raised its prices 15 cents, less than two weeks since it increased gas prices by 10 cents the prices.

Mobil raised its Extra fuel price from $ 5.02 a gallon to $5.17. Mobil also raised its Supreme fuel from $5.47 to $5.62 while its diesel also went up from $5.33 to $5.43.

As of 7pm press time, Shell Marianas had yet to raise its prices but both oil companies have typically mirrored each other's price increases and is expected to impose the same increase today.

According to a 22-year-old motorist, fuel prices are now

See FUEL on Page 4

From 1 up to 5

Bill seeks to increase number of Saipan casino licenses

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Yumul

Citing the need to secure a source of funding for the 25% portion of the retirees' pensions and anticipating the revocation of the exclusive Saipan ca-

See FROM on Page 4

AT A GLANCE

As of 7:48pm, Oct. 27, 2021

VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Eligible Population Fully Vaccinated: **83.5%**

Days since last community transmission: **217**

Pfizer/BioNTech	
Initiated:	30,461
Fully Vaccinated:	29,805
Moderna	
Initiated:	4,885
Fully Vaccinated:	4,728
Janssen	
Fully Vaccinated:	850

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	17,823	121	17,944
Recovered	15,478	87	15,565
Active	1,936	121	2,057
Deaths	230	2	232

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	291	0	291
Traced via Travel Screening	254	0	254
Traced via Community Screening	37	0	37
Deaths	3	0	3

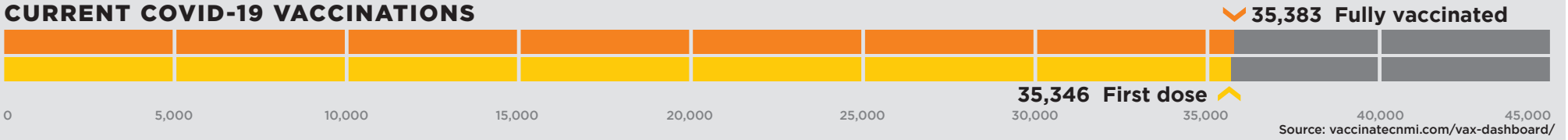
Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., https://www.vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:
- **Red:** Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- **Green:** Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

CURRENT COVID-19 VACCINATIONS



Source: vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/

INSIDE

WORLD
Sudan's deposed prime minister is allowed to return home, a day after being detained.
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ENVIRONMENT
From the first day of planning up to now, Marianas Creations has always been eco-friendly.
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LIFE & STYLE
Experts predict a tremendous legal fallout from the "Rust" tragedy, in potential civil lawsuits.
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Local

Kilili: More eligible for food stamps; up to 23% benefit increase OK'd

WASHINGTON, D.C.—More families in the CNMI will now be eligible for food aid through the Marianas Nutrition Assistance Program and their maximum benefit will increase 23% under a new memorandum of understanding negotiated with the Biden administration for fiscal year 2022, according to Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) yesterday. The benefit increase is retroactive to Oct. 1.

The changes, which move the Marianas toward parity with the national Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, SNAP, are possible because of the significant funding that Sablan has made available for Marianas NAP. The $30 million Sablan included in the American Rescue Plan will be released with the signing of the MOU.

"I want to thank Secretary Tom Vilsack, and especially his Deputy Undersecretary for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services, Stacey Dean, with whom I have been working for several years on improving food assistance to Marianas families," Sablan said. "The new MOU they have agreed moves the income threshold for eligibility from 100% of the federal poverty level to 130%, as is used nationwide for SNAP.

"More Marianas families will now be eligible for food assistance," Sablan said. It is estimated as many as 2,000 additional participants may be added to the program.

Benefits to increase

Sablan

For a family of four on Saipan the new monthly benefit maximum will be $1,231, on Rota and the Northern Islands $1,498, and on Tinian $1,301.

Benefits in the Marianas will now be more than in the lower 48 U.S. states, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. Virgin Islands and will include the nationwide 23% increase that Vilsack announced for SNAP recipients earlier this year.

NAP benefits will be the same as SNAP benefits in Guam for fiscal year 2022. The Marianas benefits were first raised to the Guam level this year after Sablan included an additional $14 million for NAP in the Consolidated Appropriations Act for 2021.

"In addition, Rota, Tinian, and Northern Islands families will continue to receive their current differential over and above the 23% increase," Sablan said. Benefits for Rota and the Northern Islands are 21.7% higher than the Saipan base amount; for Tinian the differential is 5.7%.

The Agriculture Department agreed to increase food stamps for Rota, Tinian, and the Northern Islands families in 2014. Sablan made the case to then-Food and Nutrition Services administrator Audrey Rowe that the higher benefits were needed to make up for the higher cost of food on those islands. Later that year he included $30.5 million for Marianas NAP in the Agricultural Act of 2014, allowing higher benefits for families on Saipan too.

Rainy-day fund will protect families

"A priority for me was to make sure no one is thrown out of the program or has their benefits cut, as Gov. [Ralph DLG] Torres did to families last October, right in the middle of the pandemic," Sablan said. "That was totally unnecessary because in Congress we added an extra $14 million for Marianas NAP in the FY2021 appropriation and $30 million more in the American Rescue Plan. To be sure families will not be hurt like that again, the new MOU will set up a rainy-day fund for periods of increased and unexpected need."

The Agriculture Department has assured Sablan there will be sufficient funds available to cover the increased number of eligible households, the benefit increases, and creation of the rainy-day fund. But Sablan also asked Biden to increase the annual block grant for food aid to the Marianas, which the President did—from $12 million to $30 million—in his fiscal 2022 budget released in May.

The House passed the FY 2022 appropriation with the $30-million grant for the Marianas in July, consistent with the President's budget recommendation.

Step-by-step progress toward inclusion in SNAP

Sablan has worked with Dean for several years in the context of House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer'sTask Force on Poverty and Opportunity. Dean was a food advocate with the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. And Sablan has been meeting with her one-on-one since Biden appointed her to the Agriculture Department, advocating for moving the Marianas to inclusion in SNAP.

Sablan's long-term goal remains full inclusion in SNAP for the Marianas. "The improvements in the [fiscal year] 2022 MOU are big steps in the right direction," he said. "But there are income deductions, training opportunities, and other aspects of SNAP that I want families in the Marianas to be eligible for and will continue working with [Dean] to achieve." ***(PR)***

Courts reinstate Woodruff

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. District Court for the NMI has followed the CNMI Supreme Court's lead, granting last week Stephen Woodruff's petition for reinstatement to practice law in the Commonwealth.

According to District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona, Woodruff is allowed to practice law again in the federal court, with conditions. Manglona has yet to issue an order stating these conditions.

Meanwhile, in a reinstatement order from the CNMI Supreme Court dated Sept. 30, the high court found that Woodruff has met his burden to convey an understanding of his professional responsibility and of the wrongfulness and severity of the conduct that led to his disbarment.

"Woodruff has met his burden of showing that he did not engage in any unauthorized practice of law, and that he appreciates the wrongfulness and severity of his actions leading to his initial disbarment. Together with testimonials from prominent members of the Commonwealth legal community to his ability to maintain an effective practice, Woodruff has presented clear and convincing evidence that he is qualified to practice law," the order stated.

However, the CNMI Supreme Court imposed conditions on Woodruff's reinstatement. The condition was that for one year following his reinstatement, Woodruff shall monthly submit under seal to the Supreme Court Clerk of Court's Office a list of active clients and cases in CNMI courts.

"If, under the court's supervision, he demonstrates the ability to maintain his practice free of the problems that led to his disbarment, he will be unconditionally reinstated one year from the date of entry of this order," the order stated.

Back in 2017, the district court disbarred Woodruff from the practice of law before the federal court for violating his duties of competence and diligence in representing a client in a civil lawsuit that resulted in the dismissal and closure of the case. A year later, in 2018, the Superior Court imposed similar sanctions against Woodruff, disbarring him from practicing law with the local trial court.

During the hearing on Woodruff's petition that was held last July 26, the high court asked him whether he engaged in the unauthorized practice of law during his disbarment. Woodruff stated that he performed paralegal work for attorneys Joe Hill and Michael Evangelista and consulting work for attorney James Sirok but that he had no client contact.

He also acknowledged having assisted a pro se appellant with drafting court documents, but he maintained that the scope of this aid was restricted to nonlegal clerical work.

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Fire Academy graduation set for December

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services expects to host a graduation for its 14th Fire Academy cycle on Dec. 7 but that sate is still tentative.

According to DFEMS spokesperson Rob Mojica, "Dec. 7 is the projected date they want to have the graduation."

According to him, the cadets are currently halfway through the Emergency Medical Services training portion of the academy. The final obstacle before graduation the cadets will face, Mojica said, will be a skill sets test to ensure that they are ready to go out into the field.

Currently, the cadets are on track for their graduation scheduled for December. Following graduation, they will go on ride-alongs for actual on-the-job training.

According to a previous article on the *Saipan Tribune,* there were initially 52 cadets at the beginning of the academy. However, only 43 completed the first phase and successfully entered the second. Of the 43 cadets, seven were from Rota, six from Tinian, and 30 from the CNMI.

The first phase of the academy, also known as the Red phase, consisted of intense physical fitness training, discipline, and the ethics of being a cadet and being a firefighter.

Currently, the cadets are in the process of completing the academic phase where they must acquire 40 credits at the Northern Marianas College to officially pass.

DFEMS launched the emergency Fire Academy earlier this year to make up for the loss of the nine firefighters who were terminated for refusing to get vaccinated. The department was left with only 114 personnel at that time.

Initially, the target date for the start of the academy was some time around June but that had to be pushed back. The academy officially began on July 19.

A total of 23 individuals initially signed a petition against the mandatory vaccination. However, a number of these individual eventually had themselves vaccinated and only nine were eventually terminated. Those nine individuals filed a lawsuit against the Department and its commissioner, Dennis Mendiola.

Last September, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho granted the agreement between the nine firefighters, Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, and Mendiola to dismiss the case without prejudice. That means the plaintiffs can re-file their suit with the court if they choose.

Prior to that, on Sept. 13, the court issued an order denying the preliminary injunction to reinstate the terminated firefighters.

The court denied the plaintiff's motion on three grounds; they failed to exhaust their administrative remedies, the preliminary injunction was not a proper remedy for economic harm, and the plaintiffs did not have a strong likelihood of success on the merits for any of their claims, the level of threat of irreparable harm was not present, and the public's interest in protecting health outweighed the interest of plaintiffs.

Guam logs 3 more COVID-related deaths

Guam recorded three more COVID-19-related deaths on the island, according to the Guam Joint Information Center last Tuesday. In the same report, it said that, as of 5pm Tuesday, there are currently 51 individuals in Guam hospitalized with COVID-19.

Guam's three most recent COVID-19-related deaths occurred at the Guam Memorial Hospital from Oct. 20 to 26.

The 228th COVID-19-related death was an unvaccinated 51-year-old male. He tested positive for COVID-19 on Sept. 7 and was pronounced dead at GMH on Oct. 20.

The 229th was an unvaccinated 72-year-old female with underlying health conditions. She tested positive on Oct. 12 and was pronounced dead at GMH on Oct. 25.

The 230th was a partially vaccinated 96-year-old female with underlying health conditions. She tested positive on Oct. 15 and was pronounced dead on arrival at GMH on Oct. 26.

Guam Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero offered her condolences and said that seeing more of the Guam community lose their lives to COVID-19 "is a stark reminder that this is not 'just the flu.'"

"To their family and friends, our thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time. The notice of other members of our community lost while battling this virus is a stark reminder that this is not 'just the flu.' Protect yourselves against this deadly virus by getting vaccinated and taking precautions seriously. Let's not let our guard down," she said. ***(Joshua Santos)***

FUEL

From Page 1

ridiculously high, considering that everyone is just starting to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The islands, just like the whole world, have just started to bounce back from the economic downfall of this pandemic. Fuel prices shouldn't be this high because I'm sure a lot of people can barely afford it right now," he said.

Another motorist, a student at the Northern Marianas College, said her part-time job can barely keep her afloat, now that gas is higher than ever.

"I'm one of those people who is dependent on gas because I go to school and I go to work right after. I can't not gas my car and I go through gas pretty quickly too. I hate that I have to choose between filling up my car, or grabbing lunch, or paying my phone bill. This is really saddening," she said. ***(Kimberly B. Esmores)***

INCREASED

From Page 1

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres noted in a news release yesterday that CNMI residents can now seek nutrition assistance income eligibility levels that are equal to Guam, the 48 States, Washington, D.C., and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

"I am pleased that our hard work to ensure low-income families in the CNMI have access to this critical food assistance have paid off. This is a major accomplishment for our people, and I am also pleased with the ongoing progress that will transition the NAP from coupon benefits to EBT benefits, which we expect to occur in early 2023," said Torres.

He attributes these developments to the "great collaboration" between the CNMI and USDA's Food and Nutrition Service, and thanked FNS administrator Cindy Long, FNS Western Regional administrator Jesus Mendoza, CNMI Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Joseph Deleon Guerrero, Nutrition Assistance program administrator Walter Macaranas, "and the great staff at NAP office."

FY 2022 Gross Monthly Income Eligibility Standards
130 Percent of Poverty Level

Household Size	48 States, DC, Guam, Virgin Islands	CNMI	Hawaii	Alaska
1	$1,396	$1,396	$1,606	$1,744
2	$1,888	$1,888	$2,171	$2,359
3	$2,379	$2,379	$2,737	$2,974
4	$2,871	$2,871	$3,302	$3,590
5	$3,363	$3,363	$3,868	$4,205
6	$3,855	$3,855	$4,433	$4,820
7	$4,347	$4,347	$4,999	$5,436
8	$4,839	$4,839	$5,564	$6,051

With the additional funding under the MOU, the Torres administration plans to increase the Maximum Monthly Allotments in the NAP to equal those in Guam under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP.

In addition, the administration has been approved to increase Income Eligibility Standards from 100% of the federal poverty level to 130% of poverty used in SNAP, and standardization of the certification period of all households, except those receiving Supplemental Security Income, to six months.

As an example, the income limit for household size of 4 was increased from a monthly gross income of $2,184 to $2,871 or $34,186 per annum. This will be implemented effective Nov. 1, 2021, which is expected that more households would able to qualify under the new standards.

Deleon Guerrero said this is a milestone for the administration, DCCA, NAP, and the people of the CNMI.

"This is monumental, and it bring us, our CNMI residents, to the level of benefits that SNAP beneficiaries receive [in] Guam and the most of the SNAP states. We are grateful for the continued support of the governor and collaboration with our FNS counterparts of further enhancing the CNMI NAP," said Deleon Guerrero.

Macaranas called this an exciting milestone for the CNMI, with more developments occurring for the NAP office to benefit the CNMI.

"We have extensively and tirelessly been working with the FNS leadership and team to continue developing and enhancing the NAP program. We are currently working on the EBT project we plan to roll over in early 2023 or sooner. I want to thank all the NAP staff for their continued hard work providing assistance and service to our residents in needs," said Macaranas.

Maximum Allotments

Household Size	Hawaii	Guam	CNMI			Alaska		
			Saipan	Tinian	Rota / Northern Is.	Urban	Rural 1	Rural 2
1	$472	$369	$369	$390	$449	$322	$411	$500
2	$865	$677	$677	$715	$823	$591	$753	$917
3	$1,239	$969	$969	$1,024	$1,179	$846	$1,079	$1,313
4	$1,573	$1,231	$1,231	$1,301	$1,498	$1,074	$1,370	$1,667
5	$1,868	$1,462	$1,462	$1,544	$1,779	$1,276	$1,627	$1,980
6	$2,242	$1,754	$1,754	$1,853	$2,134	$1,531	$1,952	$2,376
7	$2,478	$1,939	$1,939	$2,048	$2,358	$1,692	$2,158	$2,626
8	$2,832	$2,216	$2,216	$2,341	$2,695	$1,934	$2,466	$3,002

The maximum monthly allotment for a household size of 4 is $1,231 on Saipan as it is in Guam. Because of the higher costs of living on Tinian and Rota, the CNMI was allowed to implement differential allotments, similar to how it is implemented in Alaska. This meant that maximum allotments for Tinian would be higher than Saipan due to the higher costs of living. Rota would certainly be higher than Tinian or Saipan because of the very high costs of living. As a comparison, maximum allotments on Tinian and Rota are essentially higher than maximum the allotments in Guam.

Households who are entitled to receive NAP benefits in November 2021 will see a slight increase in their benefits compared to amount they received in October.

The increase in nutrition assistance funding includes differential benefit allotment levels for Saipan, Tinian, Rota, and the Northern Islands. The MOU also includes funding for a contingency reserve fund that will ensure that CNMI can respond to unanticipated needs. ***(PR)***

FROM

From Page 1

sino license of the struggling Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC, House floor leader Ralph N. Yumul (R-Saipan) has introduced a local bill that will increase the number of casino licenses on Saipan from one to five.

Yumul's House Local Bill 22-26 seeks to authorize, establish, and regulate casino gambling within the Third Senatorial District, the political name of Saipan and the Northern Islands.

In a phone interview yesterday, Yumul said the whole intent of his bill right now is to increase the number of casino licenses, but he is not sure what his colleagues in the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation would like to see. He said he just upped the number to five licenses because both Rota and Tinian have the same allowed number of casino licenses.

"I know five may be too much for the island. We're looking at pretty much starting all over again, basically, in preparation of the revocation of [IPI's] casino license," Yumul said.

He said the whole intent is basically to help the retirees.

He said the whole Saipan casino license agreement in the original Public Law 18-56 "obviously didn't work" so the proposal during the House Gaming Committee meeting in the coming months is to decide on what to do with the Saipan casino industry.

"I'm not sure what other members would put in or change, but at least I laid on the table [an option on] how we're going to go about the casino industry in the future," Yumul said.

When asked if there is a conflict of interest in his introduction of the bill since his brother, Ray, is the interim IPI chief executive officer, Yumul said the House legal counsel informed him that there is no conflict in introducing the bill because they are just trying to increase the number of casino licenses.

"Should any conflict of interest arises, then I may not have to vote during the voting period," he said.

Yumul said they're just preparing should the revocation of IPI's license happen and that they should be prepared to either restart the casino industry or to kill the industry.

"That's for the Gaming Committee to hold public hearings and get the sentiment of the people as to how we want to go about the future of the gaming industry here in the CNMI," he said.

For now, Yumul said, they're anticipating a revocation down the road as the U.S. District Court for the NMI has a firm grip on the casino and its property. "So we anticipate a revocation down the road," he said.

Yumul said if IPI's license is not revoked, then obviously they can't move forward with his bill.

He said he will introduce the bill in the House of Representatives session tomorrow, Friday, and then it will be transmitted to the SNILD, which is the lawmaking body for all Saipan and the Northern Islands matters.

Yumul said they are prepared to re-examine the gaming industry and check the sentiment of people—if they want to continue with the gaming industry or not allow future gaming in the CNMI.

Yumul stated in the bill, called the Saipan and Northern Islands Casino Act of 2021, that the casino industry, which was established seven years ago to provide revenue to help the CNMI retirees and their pensions, is struggling. He said for the sake of the retirees, SNILD must take action to ensure a more reliable and diversified funding source.

He said the Commonwealth is responsible to pay for 75% of government retirees' benefits, as outlined in the settlement agreement that was reached in the Betty Johnson case against the government.

The law that created the casino industry on Saipan, Public Law 18-56, addressed the 25% shortfall by using IPI's $15 million casino exclusive license fee as a source. Yumul said this arrangement worked until Public Law 20-10 replaced this source with the Casino Gross Revenue Tax for the pension benefits of government retirees.

He said the Casino Gross Revenue Tax, which relied upon actual incoming revenue, is inconsistent and now, with the COVID-19 pandemic, this revenue is clearly insufficient to cover the 25% portion of pension benefits for all the Commonwealth's retirees.

In the present situation, Yumul said, IPI has not been able to pay taxes and cannot reliably pay the $15 million guaranteed license fee, which demonstrates that it was imprudent for the Commonwealth to rely on just one industry and just one company.

He said tying the fate of the retirees' pension to one single industry was risky and that it was even more dangerous to tie the funding for the retirees' pension to an exclusive licensee.

To better provide for the retirees and obtain the goal of increased stability and dependability, they must move away from the current single licensee framework that is totally dependent on one business entity, Yumul said.

He said the purpose of this bill is to mandate that the casino operating in the Third Senatorial District will provide license fees to pay the 25% portion of pension benefits to all the retirees in the Third Senatorial District and lessen reliance on the funds generated from the Casino Gross Revenue Tax.

He said consistent with the original intent of P.L. 18-46, to accomplish the goal of making the funding source for retiree pensions more reliable, SNILD will not repeat past mistakes by offering an exclusive local license.

Yumul said that, by increasing the number of locally licensed casinos, there will be more economic support for the industry as the casinos can compete but still work together, sharing costs and expenses for promoting the industry and bringing in tourists for the benefit of not just Saipan but the entire CNMI.

Also, by increasing the number of licenses from one to five while simultaneously requiring annual license fees of not $15 million but $3 million, there will be less risk for all concerned, he said.

He said assuming five local casinos pay a reasonable sum of $5 million each, this will result in $25 million—which is $10 million more than what is being presently required by P. L. 18-56.

He said significantly, IPI has strongly indicated that it cannot or will not be paying its $15 million annual license fee in full, its annual $3 million regulatory fee to the Commonwealth Casino Commission, nor does it intend to pay its community benefit obligation.

He said a well-regulated casino industry will increase tourism to Saipan and the Commonwealth, will stimulate the local economy, and provide critically needed government revenues.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

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Discussions continue in case of man who tried to drive off Suicide cliff

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The parties in the case of a man who tried to drive off Suicide Cliff after beating his girlfriend are set to meet for a status conference to discuss what route they intend to take to resolve the case.

Chief Prosecutor Chester Hinds of the Office of the Attorney General said the defense and prosecution in the case of Tristin Lance V. Muña, 25, will meet on Nov. 19, for a status conference before Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho to discuss how to proceed.

Hinds said the parties will discuss at the status conference what direction the case will go, with either a change of plea or a trial but if no resolution can be reached at the status conference, the judge will proceed with a trial.

According to court documents, Muña's girlfriend reported the beating incident to police on July 15 after receiving a voice message from Muña via WhatsApp that he was going to end his life.

This prompted the Department of Public Safety to notify all units that Muña was suicidal. He was later found at Suicide Cliff, where he tried to drive his vehicle off of the barricaded cliff. He failed to run off the cliff as the place had been barricaded after such a suicide incident several months earlier.

The victim said that, following an argument with Muna that night when she said she wanted to end their relationship, she went to take a shower and could hear Muña pacing inside the bedroom. When she came out, she saw Muña holding a bloody hand over a trash can. The victim said she was about to call their neighbor for help but when she tried to reach for her phone, Muña allegedly threw the phone across the room.

When the victim said she tried to push him away from her to call for help, but Muna allegedly started punching her until she was on the floor with Muña standing over her. Muña allegedly only slowed down the punches when the victim said she wasn't going to leave him.

When Muña stopped hitting her, the victim told him that she needed medical attention and to allow their neighbor, one of the victim's friends, to take her to the hospital. That was when Muña grabbed a few of his belongings and left their home.

Later, at around 10:45pm, the victim said she received a voice message from Muña saying that he "deserved to die" and "goodbye." This prompted the victim to report the incident to police because she was afraid he would kill himself.

At around 11:48pm, police officers found Muña accelerating through the Suicide Cliff barricade. The vehicle did not go all the way through but police reported that the front tires of the vehicle were already off the cliff and they had to place rocks behind the two back tires to keep the vehicle from completely falling off the cliff.

DROP-OFF SITE CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

T Galleria Saipan is an official 2021 "Toys for Tots" partner this holiday season. Community members who would like to donate toys to the "Toys for Tots" program can drop off their donation at T Galleria Saipan. The "Toys for Tots" program is a charitable initiative hosted by the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve that provides toys to disadvantaged children during the Christmas holiday season. The program is spearheaded by the Associated Students of Northern Marianas College and the Saipan Chamber of Commerce. Businesses who would like to participate in this program and host a toy collection box can email saipantoys4tots@gmail.com.

USA Fanter sues IPI for breach of contract again

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

USA Fanter Corp. Ltd. has filed another breach of contract lawsuit against Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC, even as IPI has yet to satisfy the judgment of over $2 million in USA Fanter's previous breach of contract suit.

USA Fanter, through attorney Colin Thompson, filed the breach of contract lawsuit against IPI last week with the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

The lawsuit alleges that IPI failed to pay a construction staging lease agreement and construction contract that involved quarry products and heavy equipment rentals.

Without factoring interest or late fees, IPI owes USA Fanter $61,600 for unpaid property rent, $87,772.55 for the unpaid change order work, $15,462 for unpaid quarry materials, and $61,292.50 for unpaid heavy equipment rentals—for a total of $226,127.05, according to Thompson.

In the complaint, Thompson is asking the U.S. District Court for the NMI to award USA Fanter general compensatory and consequential damages in amounts to be shown in accordance with proof at the time of trial, the $226,127.05 owed pursuant to the invoices, oral contracts, and delivery slips, and attorneys fees.

According to the lawsuit, on or about Dec. 15, 2015, IPI leased property owned by USA Fanter by the execution of a staging lease agreement with the term commencing on Feb. 22, 2016, and ending on Dec. 31, 2018, with no right to extend the term of the lease. Pursuant to the lease, IPI agreed to pay plaintiff rent on or before the 25th day of each month.

Thompson said IPI did make some payments to USA Fanter on a month-to-month basis for its occupancy of the property.

However, when IPI transitioned into a holdover occupancy of the property after the lease agreement ended, the monthly payments were reduced to only $5,600 per month.

Thompson said the last payment IPI made to plaintiff for its holdover occupancy of the portion of the property was for July 2019.

"Even though IPI stopped making any payments to plaintiff for its continued occupancy of the property, defendant continued to occupy and make use of the property" the lawsuit stated.

The lawyer said USA Fanter served IPI with invoices for the amounts outstanding for the occupancy and use of the property but IPI has not responded to these invoices or demands for payment

Meanwhile, Thompson said USA Fanter and IPI also executed a written construction contract for construction of off-site improvements that was beyond the scope of their previous construction contract.

On Nov. 20, 2018, plaintiff submitted to IPI a change order proposal detailing the cost breakdown of the additional work, which totaled $87,772.55. On March 28, 2019, IPI sent USA Fanter a signed letter agreeing to the change order and agreeing to pay plaintiff $87,772.55 upon completion of the change order work. On July of 2019, USA Fanter completed all of the work pursuant to the change order but IPI allegedly refused to make the $87,772.55 payment.

"Plaintiff repeatedly demanded that defendant pay all amounts due and owing for work performed pursuant to the change order and construction contract. Despite repeated requests and demands for payment, defendant failed and refused to pay plaintiff the $87,772.55 due," Thompson said.

As for the complaint regarding the nonpayment of ordered quarry products and heavy equipment rental, Thompson said IPI ordered that USA Fanter procure and deliver quarry products to defendant on different occasions and that they'd pay for the products.

IPI allegedly failed to pay these orders and rentals that totaled $61,292.50.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, USA Fanter has a pending lawsuit against IPI of over $2 million for its failure to pay the full amount due to plaintiff under their construction contract for labor and materials provided for the improvement of IPI's resort and casino.

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- Speech by JOE BIDEN in Kissimmee, Florida, September 15, 2020.

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXXI, Issue No. 214
Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

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EDITORIAL

Facebook slams media while using shady business practices

What exactly is Facebook trying to hide? There are just so many options to choose from.

Perhaps it's the new whistleblower claims that alleged that Facebook constantly chooses growth and profits by ignoring hate speech and widespread misinformation. How about the claims that the company knowingly created a toxic environment for teen girls, leading to significant mental health problems and body image issues for one in three users?

Maybe Facebook is feeling spooked over the testimony of former Facebook data scientist Frances Haugen, the first whistleblower who unveiled the company's lax policies around security safeguards immediately following the 2020 election—which allowed the undemocratic lunacy that inspired a riot and the storming of the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6 to fester.

It would be naive to expect Facebook's reaction to this reporting to be one of regret, but it's still revealing that its response to multiple whistleblower revelations was to deflect and attack.

Last week, the Facebook Newsroom posted a series of tweets questioning a wave of upcoming stories being pursued by "30+ journalists ... finishing up a coordinated series of articles based on thousands of pages of leaked documents."

They profess to want internet regulation, but it's no secret that Facebook money pours into D.C. politics. Last year, Facebook spent nearly $20 million on its lobbying efforts in Congress, the most of any tech giant. Does anyone really believe they'll willingly allow themselves to be regulated in a way that they cannot manipulate?

Facebook officials say they "expect the press to hold us accountable, given our scale and role in the world," yet they cry foul and push back against data-driven journalism and important questions—questions that many of their 2.9 billion users would like to see answered.

"As long as Facebook is operating in the dark, it is accountable to no one," said Haugen when testifying before Congress. U.S. Sen. Ed Markey, D-Mass., compared Facebook to Big Tobacco in that it targets kids and young adults with products it knows are harmful.

Thanks to Haugen, the revelations about how Facebook platforms can spread misinformation and undermine democracy keep coming. Among the latest is how the Jan. 6 insurrection at the U.S Capitol was fed by "Stop the Steal" zealots who used Facebook's platforms to organize those who believed the 2020 election was stolen from former President Donald Trump.

Consequently, the tech giant is directly responsible for the public scorn it has earned. The damage its products and methods have directly or indirectly caused in our country is undeniable. Yet every day, Facebook inspires more hard questions it continues to duck. The company clearly can't be trusted.

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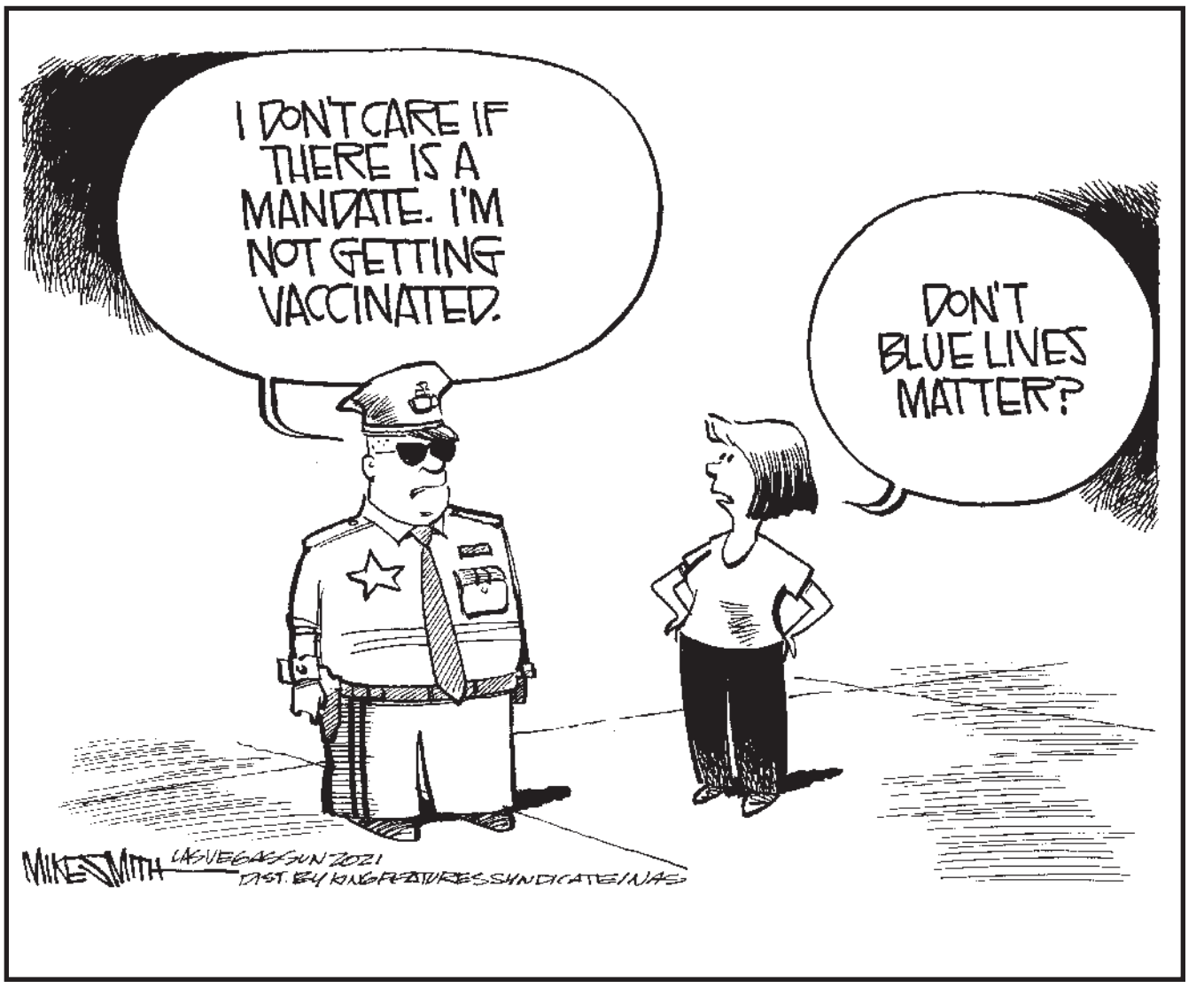
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America's national mood disorder

By TYLER COWEN
Bloomberg Opinion

Tyler Cowen is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist. He is a professor of economics at George Mason University and writes for the blog Marginal Revolution*. His books include* Big Business: A Love Letter to an American Anti-Hero*.*

America is in a bad mood. Granted, this is a subjective impression, but it is common, and there is no shortage of analyses of it, examining everything from social media to income inequality. I would like to try on for size the simplest possible explanation: If Americans are much more negative than they used to be, it is mostly about politics, and in recent decades political failure has become much more pervasive than it used it be.

The result is a kind of national mood disorder. I am not so naïve as to think politics will suddenly become less important in America anytime soon. But conditions can change quickly, and outside of politics the outlook is more positive.

If you ask why Americans might have become more negative about politics, there is a ready answer: It is the combined effects of 9/11, the failures of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the financial crisis and Great Recession, and the arrival of a major pandemic and 700,000 American deaths.

In all of these cases, the political class failed to respond adequately to crises. In contrast, the highly negative events preceding the 1980s, such as the high inflation of the late 1970s, were all addressed or even solved through politics.

A second question would be whether there is evidence to support the contention that Americans have become more negative overall. I am doubtful. Do fans of the Boston Red Sox hate the New York Yankees more than they used to? It's not obvious that the answer is yes. What about animosity between, say, Protestants and Catholics? That's probably a good deal weaker. There is almost certainly less homophobia, too, in addition to many other forms of prejudice. There are other indicators of progress; the surge in the number of Americans starting new businesses, for example, is hardly a sign of pessimism.

The negativity seems centered on our politics, our elites and the people who disagree with us politically. As political scientist Lee Drutman has written: "It's bad news for a democracy when 60 to 70 percent of people view fellow citizens of the other party as a serious threat." This phenomenon is much worse than in times past, and so our current negativity is more channeled and more focused.

I am struck by the comments section on the blog I run with Alex Tabarrok. We write mostly about economics, though other subjects often come up, such as technology, pop culture, my evil twin brother and, yes, politics. Our blog has been around for 18 years, and each year the commenters seem to become more scathing, not only about the blog's authors but also about each other.

The next issue to consider is whether this arrangement—for lack of a better term, call it political negativity—is stable, and if not how it might change.

The good news is that shifts in national moods come relatively frequently, and they are difficult to forecast. In the 1990s, for instance, few people forecast our current predicament of such an extreme polarized emotional opposition. Negative moods do not necessarily feed upon each other and become worse, as shown by the broader currents of history. Civilization has been around for thousands of years, and the U.S. for a few hundred years, in both cases with many ups and downs. If negative moods inevitably lead to nothing more than further collapse or destruction, it is hard to see how we would have come so far.

It is even possible that national moods are characterized by mean-reversion—namely, that negative moods tend to turn more positive, and vice versa. That would imply we could look forward to better moods ahead. That is hardly gospel, but I haven't seen anyone with a better theory.

Nobody, including you and me, is consistently good at measuring the current national mood, never mind forecasting changes to it. That may sound a little scary, but it has ever been thus.

So, to sum up a few of the basic facts under this worldview: Americans are more negative and more oppositional in some important ways, especially around politics. This is not a good development. Yet—especially when you look beyond politics—the national mood is by no means entirely sour or hopeless. National moods also change frequently, and in unpredictable ways. There will be many positive developments in coming decades, most of all in biotechnology.

The negativity, in other words, is contained, and it could change swiftly and without notice. I don't know about you, but I find this outlook liberating—or even, dare I say, a reason for some modest optimism.

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It's time to implement an effective waste management system in the Marianas

TRASH TALK

By GARY SWORD
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Gary Sword is chairman of the Universal Garbage Collection Task Force. He is vice president of the KKMP radio station, one of the most popular and beloved stations in the Marianas and has extensive experience in power, water, waste water, and solid waste services. Sword serves as a member of the Domestic Policy Recovery Committee for the Governor's Council of Economic Advisers.

Let's talk trash, but no filthy words, only rubbish talk. We should start with a clear picture of our current garbage situation then work together in addressing its serious health, environmental, and economic threats to the Marianas.

The illegal dumping of trash is rampant and out of control. Our landfill is running out of space by the day. Recyclable materials are not being processed correctly. We aren't composting materials that can fertilize our soil. The list of concerns surrounding our waste management goes on and on, much like the piles of trash causing significant harm to our islands and its people.

This week, the newly-established Universal Garbage Collection Task Force held its second meeting and discussed the immediate steps we should be taking to mitigate this issue. We have only 90 days to produce solid recommendations to resolve our trash problems. We established four committees—Logistics, Cost of Service, Comprehensive Planning, and Outreach—that will address these key components of our plan.

Why we need waste management

Waste management involves the regular collection, transportation, processing, recycling, and disposal of waste materials. It also involves educating a society about responsible consumption, sorting and disposal of all types of materials to avoid environmental hazards.

Look at it this way: we have vessels bringing shiploads of containers full of supplies, food, and materials weekly but not none of those containers take any trash away. Saipan alone generated 58,105 tons of waste material in fiscal year 2018, according to a feasibility study report. If garbage is not collected and handled professionally, we will soon see the effects of this issue on our environment, food supply, and even our water system. Eventually, it will have an effect on our overall economy if we don't get our trash issues under control.

Most important, waste management is important to public health. Harmful wastes can cause long-term health problems if not collected and disposed of properly. A poorly managed landfill can and will affect the health of a community. Dangerous materials such as oil, paints, and acids can seep into our water aquifers and pollute the water we use to drink, cook and bathe.

UGC is everyone's business

As we move forward, the task force would like to hear more ideas from our youth, community, government, and business leaders to find sustainable solutions to our waste management problems. We welcome your input and will look at all feasible pathways to achieving house-to-house garbage collection, reducing the volume of garbage dumped in the landfill, recycling and upcycling of materials, and eliminating illegal dumping Marianas-wide.

There will be a cost to these efforts, but I am confident that the task force will identify avenues that will make the UGC system work and not overly burden our community.

Join me each week as we talk trash and pick fights—the good kinds that demand a safer and healthier environment for our community and aim to improve the quality of life in the Marianas for all of us.

For more information about the Universal Garbage Collection initiative, visit the GCEA website at cnmieconomy.com. Engage with the UGC Task Force via email at gceacnmi@gmail.com.

National divorce is a poisonously stupid idea

By RICH LOWRY
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Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

Divorce usually isn't a good idea, and that's especially true of a nearly 250-year-old continental nation.

A cadre of apocalyptic writers on the right, who believe the country is too far gone to save, has become obsessed with a Secession 2.0 that would cleave red America from blue and allow the former to escape the ever-rising tide of woke insanity.

There is no doubt the country is deeply riven along political, cultural and religious lines. Yet, a national divorce has nothing to recommend it.

The practical obstacles are insuperable, and the likely effects would be very unwelcome to its proponents. If an insufficient patriotism is one of the ills of contemporary America, then a national divorce would prescribe arsenic as a cure. It would burn down America to save America, or at least those parts of it considered salvageable.

A disaggregated United States would be instantly less powerful. Indeed, Russia and China would be delighted and presumably believe that we'd deserve to experience the equivalent of the crackup of the Soviet Union or the Qing dynasty, respectively.

The economic consequences could be severe. The United States of America is a continentwide free trade zone, creating a vast domestic market that makes us all better off. Exchanging that for a market Balkanized by state or region would be a major loss.

Finally, the United States foundering on its domestic divisions would be a significant blow to the prestige of liberal democracy. Abraham Lincoln worried about this effect the first time around, and it might be even worse now, with a long stable republic unable to survive internal dissension.

Then, there's the question of how this is supposed to work. Lincoln warned of the physical impossibility of secession when the Mason-Dixon Line was a more-or-less ready line of demarcation. How would it play out now, with conservatives and progressives amply represented in every state in the Union?

If there were to be sovereign pure red and blue places, this wouldn't look like the relatively neat split of the United States into two in the 1860s, but more like post-Peace of Westphalia Europe, with hundreds of different entities.

Some proponents of national divorce say not to worry—it can all be worked out amicably. But if we are going to split up because we can't even agree on bathroom policies or pronouns, how are we going to agree to divvy up our territory and resources?

It would matter, obviously, who gets control of the federal government, the most powerful organization on Earth. It has 1.3 million people under arms and a stockpile of 3,800 nuclear warheads. Whether it accrues to red or blue America would, to understate it, be a matter of considerable haggling.

On top of all this, red-state secession would be self-defeating. Let's say Texas left. That's 40 electoral votes off the national map for Republicans. In 2020, with no Texas, Trump could have won Pennsylvania, Michigan and Wisconsin, and still fallen short of an electoral majority.

On the other hand, Texas isn't quite as ruby red as it used to be. It could secede and still find itself governed by the very Democrats it hoped to leave behind.

Besides, would the rest of the country really be willing to watch a state of 29 million people that represents the ninth-largest economy in the world go its own way?

Meanwhile, red-state secession might not actually stem the cultural tide. Would the college professors in these places be less woke? Would the newsrooms be more conservative? Would people in the state stop using social media?

The real impetus for the talk of a breakup is despair. It constitutes giving up on convincing our fellow Americans, giving up on our common national project, giving up on our birthright.

This is an impulse to be resisted. Breaking up is hard to do and quitting on America is—or should be—unforgivable.

Democrats, kill this bad bill

By NOLAN FINLEY
The Detroit News

Every week that goes by with Democrats unable to bully or bribe their two recalcitrant Senate colleagues into signing on to one of the worst pieces of legislation in modern history is a good week for America.

Joe Manchin of West Virginia and Kyrsten Sinema of Arizona are still holding out against passage of their party's $3.5 trillion socialist spending bill, despite relentless attacks from their colleagues, who alternate between coating them with sugar and dousing them with bile.

Democrats have thrown overboard key pieces of the package, including free community college, to lighten the cost enough to win over the two dissidents. They've also backed off somewhat on weaponizing the IRS to squeeze more revenue out of working Americans.

But then Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont, who is the driver of the legislative package that would turn America into a full-on welfare state, penned an op-ed last week that ran in Manchin's home state—one of the poorest in the nation—accusing him of opposing help for the working class. It clearly ticked off Manchin.

In a heated face-to-face meeting between the pair, Manchin reportedly shouted at Sanders, "How about zero?" when pressed for an amount of spending he'd support.

Zero is a fine number. The best number, in fact.

Manchin and Sinema, who herself has been harassed while trying to use the bathroom, hope to help their party and country avoid the disaster this bill would bring.

They understand pouring additional trillions of dollars of government spending onto the trillions already spent would send inflation through the roof.

Its vast new cradle-to-grave welfare programs would provide further disincentive to work for a labor force that is too comfortable staying at home.

The massive tax hikes on the wealthy and corporations that are supposed to pay for this boondoggle will slow investments and job creation, and provide renewed incentives for companies to move their business overseas.

The American people aren't cheering all the giveaways the bill would shower on them. Rather, they are wary of their government becoming so much bigger and more intrusive. A poll this month from the bipartisan PAC No Labels found 60% of Americans agree with Manchin's plea for a "strategic pause" on the bill that would provide more time to weigh its impact.

Washington Post's left-leaning editorial board chided Democrats for attempting to abuse their slim majority in Congress "to stage a revolution."

That's a good description of what's going on. Democrats are trying to radically reshape America without building the broad consensus that should precede such a consequential transformation.

They had hoped to shove it through a month ago. The longer their ambition is denied, the better the chance it will be derailed.

This is a bad bill, and not just because of its tremendous cost. Even a much smaller version would position the federal government as the most dominant force in American life, making nearly every individual dependent on its largesse.

God bless Joe Manchin and Kyrsten Sinema for standing in the path of their own party's bulldozer. Here's praying they'll hang tough.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Northeast winds around 10 mph. Lows around 76. Highs near 88. Chance of showers 20 percent.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the upper 70s. Highs in the upper 80s. Chance of showers 20 percent.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the upper 70s. Highs in the upper 80s. Chance of showers 20 percent.	Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the upper 70s. Highs in the mid 80s.	Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the upper 70s. Highs in the mid 80s.
88º / 76º	80º / 70º	80º / 70º	80º / 70º	80º / 70º

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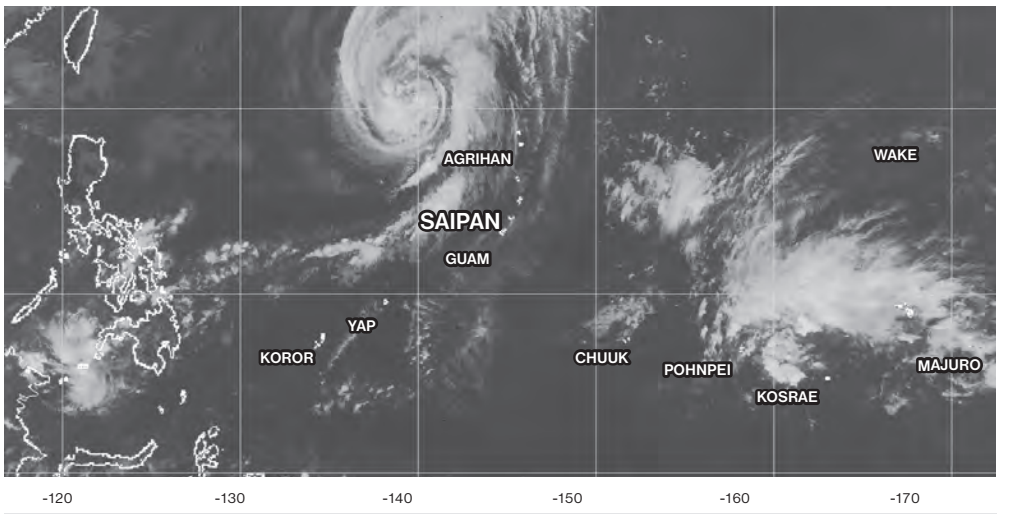

PICTURE TIME: 8:19 AM, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2021

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Guam Doppler weather radar shows only a few light showers moving through the Marianas Waters. An upper-level low to the east of the Marianas continues to steadily move westward. The Ipan buoy reveals combined seas of 2 to 4 feet, composed of east swell and wind waves. Models suggest an additional northwest swell which the Ipan buoy is shielded from. This makes the open ocean combined seas about 4 to 6 feet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Mostly Cloudy	85 / 78 °F
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	88 / 78 °F
Yap	Partly Cloudy	86 / 79 °F
Chuuk	Isolated Thunderstorms	87 / 79 °F
Pohnpei	Scattered Thunderstorms	88 / 77 °F
Kosrae	Scattered Thunderstorms	86 / 79 °F
Majuro	Thunderstorms	83 / 80 °F

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:11 AM	5:49 PM
Friday	6:11 AM	5:49 PM
Saturday	6:12 AM	5:48 PM
Sunday	6:12 AM	5:48 PM
Monday	6:12 AM	5:47 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	12:16 PM	11:44 PM
Friday	-	1:04 PM	-
Saturday	12:38	1:48 PM	-
Sunday	1:32	2:31 PM	-
Monday	2:26	3:12 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Rain	65 / 57 °F
Beijing	Cloudy	65 /43 °F
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	80 / 73 °F
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	84 / 73 °F
London	Mostly Sunny	61 / 57 °F
Los Angeles	Sunny	86 / 61 °F
Manila	AM Thunderstorms	87 / 77 °F
Melbourne	PM Light Rain	78 / 56 °F
Miami	Scattered Thunderstorms	86 / 76 °F
New York	Mostly Sunny	62 / 51 °F
Osaka	Sunny	71 / 54 °F
Paris	Sunny	66 /52 °F
Busan	Sunny	71 / 59 °F
Rome	Partly Cloudy	72 / 48 °F
Salem	AM Rain	71 / 52 °F
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	67 / 55 °F
Seoul	Sunny	66 / 45 °F
Tokyo	Sunny	71 / 53 °F
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	66 / 55 °F

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
6:25 AM	Low Tide	0.02
2:40 AM	High Tide	1.58
8:25 PM	Low Tide	1.22
11:25 PM	High Tide	1.31

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

■ Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.

■ Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.

■ Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.

■ Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.

■ Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.

■ Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html

■ Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

■ Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.

■ Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

■ Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:

• Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.

• Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

• Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

• Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, Saipan Tribune offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 5, 2021

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	6:45am	7:25am	1, 3, 6
UA117	9:45am	10:25am	2, 4, 5, 7

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

UA183	7:05pm	8:50pm	2, 5
UA183	7:25pm	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	6:45am	9:10pm	1, 3, 6 via Guam
UA117/183	9:45am	8:50pm	2, 5 via Guam
UA117/183	9:45am	9:10pm	4, 7 via Guam

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

7C3406	3:10PM	6:55PM	6
TW9308	3:20PM	8:00PM	4
OZ6243	4:00PM	7:40PM	6

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	5:00am	5:41am	1, 3, 6
UA174	8:00am	8:41am	2, 4, 5, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	9:50pm	3:55am+1	2, 5
UA184	10:25pm	4:30am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA184/174	9:50pm	5:41am+1	2, 5 via Guam
UA184/174	10:25pm	5:41am+1	7 via Guam
UA184/174	10:25pm	8:41am+1	1, 3, 4, 6 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3405	8:30AM	2:10PM	6
OZ6233	9:00AM	2:30PM	6
TW9307	10:00AM	2:20PM	4

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2021

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Daily
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Daily
1303	1:30PM	2:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
1304	3:30PM	4:00PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Daily
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Daily
3103	1:30PM	3:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
3104	4:30PM	5:00PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1205	11:00	11:15	Daily
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2105	11:30	11:45	Daily
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

CNMI OVA visits Tinian, meets with Tinian veterans

By JOSHUA SANTOS
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI's first accredited and permanent Veterans Benefits counselor, Willie Peterson III, reached out to veterans on Tinian last Tuesday and talked to them about how Peterson and the CNMI Office of Veterans Affairs can help Tinian's veterans file for and claim their veterans benefits.

Peterson, who was accompanied to Tinian by OVA executive officer Stanley T. Iakopo, met with veterans living on the island at the Tinian Mayor's Office conference room. Also present at the meeting was Tinian Mayor Edwin P. Aldan, who also took part in the meetings to connect with Peterson and Tinian's veterans.

Iakopo said in a phone interview that he and Peterson met with around 12 Tinian veterans, and that the discussions focused on introducing Peterson to the veterans and talking about how Peterson and the OVA can help the veterans.

Peterson previously worked as a legal administrative specialist for the Veterans Benefits Administration under the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs in Hawaii and was recently hired by the OVA.

While the purpose of Tuesday's outreach was mostly to allow Peterson to connect with Tinian veterans, Iakopo said that many other topics were touched on, such as the financial hardships faced by veterans who do not live on Saipan and find themselves having to fly to Saipan to receive veteran-specific healthcare and the current state of the Tinian Veterans' Cemetery.

Veterans Benefits counselor Willie Peterson III, second from left; Tinian Mayor Edwin P. Aldan, third from left; and CNMI Office of Veterans Affairs Stanley T. Iakopo, fourth from left, share a photo at the Tinian Mayor's Office conference room yesterday. Iakopo and Peterson visited Tinian Tuesday to meet with Tinian's veterans and introduce them to Peterson, who was recently hired by the OVA and is the CNMI's first accredited and permanent Veterans Benefits counselor. Iakopo said he and Peterson will be visiting Rota this Friday, Oct. 29, to conduct a similar outreach. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Iakopo said that he and Peterson will be visiting Rota tomorrow, Oct. 29, to conduct a similar outreach with Rota Mayor Efraim Atalig and Sen. Paul A. Manglona awaiting their arrival.

With the CNMI now having an accredited and permanent Veterans Benefits counselor and COVID-19-related travel restrictions continuing to loosen, Iakopo said that Tuesday's outreach will be "one of many future trips" to Saipan's neighboring islands.

"This is the first of many future trips. The goal for the Office of Veterans Affairs is to fly [Peterson] out once or twice a month and help and service the veterans and families of veterans on [Tinian and Rota]. That's the ultimate goal, and it's what's in place right now," said Iakopo.

Water service outages in parts of Papago, entire San Vicente, Upper Dandan, Obyan

There will be a scheduled water service interruption on Saturday, Oct. 30, 2021, from 8:30am to 1:30pm for Commonwealth Utilities Corp. customers in the areas of Papago along lsa Drive, the entire San Vicente, Upper Dandan, and Obyan.

The emergency water service interruption is due to the isolation of a 2-inch service line leak located on the entrance to Laulau Bay Drive in San Vicente. Customers should expect restoration of water services soon after.

For the safety of the men and women at the jobsite, proceed with caution and/or take alternative routes during the period of the waterline repairs.

For more information, contact the CUC Hotline (236-4333) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (https://wwvv.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation). ***(PR)***

Two sue USCIS over delay in issuance of their green cards

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

Two men are suing U.S. Citizenship Immigration Services in the U.S. District Court for the NMI for the delay in deciding on their green card applications.

Last Monday, James and Simei Eagan filed a civil lawsuit against the USCIS pro se for allegedly not making any decision on their "green card" application or U.S. permanent residency applications that they submitted back in 2019.

The two, who filed their complaint without a lawyer, are asking the U.S. District Court for the NMI to issue an order compelling USCIS to act and issue a ruling in their case.

"[it] is now well outside of the published case processing times, as reported in our claim statement," the two allege.

The plaintiffs claim that their green card review is well outside of the USCIS' published case processing times as it has been over two years.

"Our package was received by USCIS in March of 2019 and our interview was in January of 2020," they stated in their complaint.

HONOR LIST

Saipan Community School's first quarter honor list for school year 2021/2022

PRINCIPAL'S LIST

4.00 (No grade below 'A')

Jose Sablan-6th grade
Annabella Tudela-6th grade
David Park-7th grade
Jeong Bin Park-7th grade
Joshua Yoo-7th grade
Lola Guerrero-8th grade
Andy Kim-8th grade
Sheryne Yang-8th grade
Joanne Yoon-8th grade
Alfred Baek-8th grade
Tae Seong Kim-8th grade
Drei Camacho-8th grade
Jie Huang-8th grade
Leighton Palacios-8th grade
Raina Park-8th grade
Abbie Kim-8th grade
Elijah Ye-8th grade

'A' HONOR ROLL

3.50 to 3.99 (No grades below 'B')

Clair Oh-4th grade
Hiyori Okuma-4th grade
Micaela Tenorio-4th grade
Leo Samson Pangelinan-4th
Shito Yoshie-5th grade
Vivian Chung-5th grade
Jessica Gao-5th grade
Nicole William-5th grade
Elijah Pangelinan-5th grade
Richard Zhao-6th grade
Ray Patrick McDonald-6th grade
Landon Springer-6th grade
Joan Song-7th grade
David Ye-7th grade
Byul An-7th grade
Hannah Chae-7th grade
Morgan Finco-7th grade
Sharon Zhang-7th grade
Timothy Haynes-8th grade

'B' HONOR ROLL

3.00 to 3.49 – (No grades below 'C')

Ryan Macaranas-4th grade
Alexander Diaz-4th grade
Wilson Guo-4th grade
Lily Lim-4th grade
Kielon Catching-4th grade
Marie Smith-5th grade
Tony Xiao-5th grade
Farani Tonuu-5th grad
Allie Brasuell-5th grade
Hui An-5th grade
JiHun Park-6th grade
Emma Sablan-6th grade
Daniel Nae-6th grade
Ian Chae-6th grade
Mickaella Yang-6th grade
William Guo-6th grade
Kody Arriola-6th grade
Gabriela Bark-7th grade
Jack Li-7th grade
Hilah Bacani-7th grade

CONGRATULATIONS! CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The five student winners of the Marianas Writers Movement's essay contest on "Stories Matter." The winners, who were selected by random draw, are Jasper Hall (Grace Christian Academy), Alyssa Rae David (Saipan Southern High School), Julius Torres (Saipan Southern High School), Miku Kimura (Grace Christian Academy), and Eunji Hahn (Grace Christian Academy). Each won the same ($100) prize money. At left is Jane Mack of the Marianas Writers Movement.

Senate OKs bill that transfers to Rota, Tinian mayors authority over solid waste accounts

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Senate passed Friday last week a bill that seeks to change the expenditure authority, management, and control of the solid waste sub-accounts for Rota and Tinian to the mayors of these municipalities.

In a Senate session at the Rota Mayor's Office conference room, seven senators voted "yes" to pass Senate Bill 22-04, Senate Draft 1. Sens. Paul A. Manglona (Ind-Rota) and Karl R. King-Nabors (R-Tinian) were absent but excused.

Sen. Teresita A. Santos (Ind-Rota) said Rota Mayor Efraim M. Atalig supports the bill so the delivery of public services of solid waste management can be efficiently and expeditiously provided to the Rota and Tinian communities.

Santos said Atalig also fully understands that the funds under the sub-account of the Solid Waste Revolving Funds are not subjected to any reprogramming.

Currently, the expenditure authority for these sub-accounts is the Department of Public Works chief.

Santos said the intent of the bill is to decentralize the sub-accounts and place them under the authority of the mayors of Rota and Tinian.

Atalig said he believes the ultimate recipients of any public service will be the people themselves, yet in so many instances he has had to practically beg the heads of various government agencies to release funds allocated to the Rota municipality.

According to the bill, which is authored by Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian), the expenditure authority of the solid waste sub-accounts for the First and Second Senatorial Districts should be vested in the mayor of these municipalities in order to expedite the disbursement of funds, and procurement of services and equipment for each municipality.

Hofschneider said the mayors of each municipality have firsthand knowledge of the solid waste needs and requirements of their municipalities and should prioritize the sub-account funding for those purposes.

Under the bill, expenditure authority over the revolving fund is vested in the DPW secretary; provided that the expenditure authority for the sub-accounts of the First (Rota) and Second (Tinian and Aguiguan) senatorial districts shall be the mayor of each municipality.

Revolving fund monies shall be available for expenditure on solid waste-related purposes without further appropriation and without fiscal year limitations.

The sub-accounts of the First and Second senatorial districts shall not be reprogrammed for any other purpose.

The mayor of each respective municipality shall manage the funds in the sub-accounts of the First and Second senatorial districts, according to the bill.

Business

Chinese phone carrier now out of US market

BEIJING (AP)—U.S. regulators are expelling a unit of China Telecom Ltd., one of the country's three major state-owned carriers, from the American market as a national security threat amid rising tension with Beijing.

China Telecom (Americas) Corp. is required to stop providing domestic interstate and international service in the United States within 60 days, under an order approved Tuesday by the Federal Communications Commission. The FCC cited the danger that Beijing might use the company eavesdrop or disrupt U.S. communications and "engage in espionage and other harmful activities against the United States.

The Biden administration has extended efforts begun under then-President Donald Trump to limit access to U.S. technology and markets for state-owned Chinese companies due to concern they were security risks or helping with military development. China Telecom is among companies that were expelled from U.S. stock exchanges under an order by Trump barring Americans from investing in them.

The FCC said in 2019 that due to security concerns it planned to revoke licenses granted two decades earlier to China Telecom and another state-owned carrier, China Unicom Ltd. It rejected a license application by the third carrier, China Mobile Ltd.

"China Telecom Americas' ownership and control by the Chinese government raise significant national security and law enforcement risks," said an FCC announcement.

The company's conduct and communications to U.S. government agencies "demonstrate a lack of candor, trustworthiness and reliability," the FCC said, without giving details.

The Chinese government has said it would take steps to protect its companies but has yet to announce any retaliation over their status in the U.S. market.

The telecom companies are on a U.S. government blacklist of entities deemed by the Pentagon to be involved in military development. Others include state-owned oil companies, suppliers of processor chips and video technology and construction, aerospace, rocketry, shipbuilding and nuclear power equipment companies.

US Labor sues poultry processors for failure to pay OT

WEST COVINA, Calif.—Investigations conducted by the U.S. Department of Labor Wage and Hour Division often reveal violations caused by a misunderstanding of federal law as well as blatant efforts to intentionally shortchange workers and cheat competitors. Yet investigators in the West Covina district office found the actions of a group of La Puente poultry processing employers, whose cut chicken has been distributed throughout Los Angeles County and beyond, surprisingly egregious.

The department filed a lawsuit in the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California against employers Lily "Mei" Tseng, Aiwa Tang-Ton, Kevin Truong, Jimmy Huynh, and their companies KP Poultry, TL Foods, and Express Poultry Services after the division's investigation revealed that these poultry processing employers failed to pay proper overtime to employees who worked up to 70 hours per week. The department's lawsuit alleges that the named parties violated the Fair Labor Standards Act by failing to pay proper wages to employees they hired to cut, debone, and pack chicken. The lawsuit also alleges that these employers retaliated against workers who attempted to enforce their rights under the law.

»KP Poultry, owner ordered to pay $200K after US Labor investigation

In July 2021, the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California approved a consent judgment in which KP Poultry and Truong admitted to FLSA violations and agreed to pay $200,000 in back wages and liquidated damages to 103 employees denied overtime pay. Additionally, the court forbid KP Poultry and Truong from future FLSA violations, including retaliating against the employees.

In early October, the court also determined that Tseng and Huynh are personally liable for FLSA violations their companies committed, including overtime violations. The department's litigation against the remaining defendants is still ongoing.

In addition to facing physically demanding and dangerous work, the cutter and packer employees were coerced into accepting low wages by employers who told them to forge their timesheets to hide overtime hours, demanded they pay for knives, gloves, aprons, hair nets and boots they needed to work, and who threatened them for cooperating with a federal investigation.

"Work in a poultry processing plant requires long hours and strenuous labor. The rapid pace demands intense focus to avoid serious injury," said Wage and Hour Division Assistant District Director Rafael Valles in West Covina, California. "The essential workers who perform this work are putting food on the table of families across this country and they deserve respect and fair pay. The court's actions send a strong message the Wage and Hour Division will not tolerate abusive labor practices and wage theft." ***(PR)***

NZ expands vaccine mandate to 40% of workers

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—New Zealand's government said Tuesday it will expand a vaccine mandate to include thousands of workers who have close contact with their customers—including employees at restaurants, bars, gyms and hair salons.

The changes will mean that about 40% of all New Zealand workers will need to get fully vaccinated against the coronavirus or risk losing their jobs, up from about 15% previously.

Speaking with reporters, Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said she didn't believe the new rules were an overreach of government power.

"This requirement means staff and customers are treated equally and it will play a big part in helping to minimize the spread of the virus in the highest-risk venues by reducing the potential for COVID to enter the business in the first place," Ardern said.

Workers who had previously been told they needed to get their shots included teachers and health care professionals.

Tuesday's announcement came just a few days after the government set a target of getting 90% of people aged 12 and over fully vaccinated in order to end the cycle of lockdowns.

Nation

Half its original size, Biden's big plan is in a race to finish

WASHINGTON (AP)—Half its original size, President Joe Biden's big domestic policy plan is being pulled apart and reconfigured as Democrats edge closer to satisfying their most reluctant colleagues and finishing what's now about a $1.75 trillion package.

How to pay for it all remained deeply in flux Tuesday, with a proposed billionaires' tax running into criticism as cumbersome or worse. That's forcing difficult reductions, if not the outright elimination, of policy priorities—from paid family leave to child care to dental, vision and hearing aid benefits for seniors.

The once hefty climate change strategies are losing some punch, too, focusing away from punitive measures on polluters in a shift toward instead rewarding clean energy incentives.

Pressure mounting, Biden met Tuesday evening with two holdout Democrats—Sens. Joe Manchin of West Virginia and Kyrsten Sinema of Arizona, according to a person who requested anonymity to discuss the private meeting. The president is pushing for an agreement before he departs for global summits later this week.

AP

Rep. Hakeem Jeffries, D-N.Y., standing with other House Democrats, talks to reporters outside the West Wing of the White House in Washington, Tuesday, Oct. 26, 2021, following a meeting with President Joe Biden to work out details of the Biden administration's domestic agenda.

All told, Biden's package remains a substantial undertaking—and could still top $2 trillion in perhaps the largest effort of its kind from Congress in decades. But it's far slimmer than the president and his party first envisioned.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi told lawmakers they were on the verge of "something major, transformative, historic and bigger than anything else" ever attempted in Congress, according to another person who requested anonymity to share her private remarks to the caucus.

"We know that we are close," said Rep. Joyce Beatty, D-Ohio, the chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, after a meeting with Biden at the White House. "And let me be explicitly clear: Our footprints and fingerprints are on this."

However, vast differences among Democrats remain over basic contours of the sweeping proposal and the tax revenue to pay for it.

From the White House, press secretary Jen Psaki said Biden still hoped to have a deal in hand to show foreign leaders the U.S. government was performing effectively on climate change and other major issues. But she acknowledged that might not happen, forcing him to keep working on the package from afar.

ACROSS THE NATION

Illinois police officer is shot and killed near St. Louis

PONTOON BEACH, Ill. (AP)—A police officer was shot to death Tuesday by a man at a gas station in an Illinois suburb of St. Louis, authorities said. Pontoon Beach Officer Tyler Timmins, 36, died after being taken to a hospital, Illinois State Police Trooper Jayme Bufford said. The officer was shot at around 8 a.m. at a Speedway gas station along Route 111 and was rushed to a hospital in nearby Granite City before being transferred a St. Louis hospital that specializes in the most critical cases, the St. Louis Post-Dispatch reported. Bufford said Timmins had approached a car in the gas station's parking lot because he suspected it had been stolen, and that a man began firing on him. The suspect was taken into custody.

Woman and her boyfriend arrested in death of woman's child

HOUSTON (AP)—A woman and her boyfriend were arrested Tuesday in the death of the woman's 8-year-old son, whose skeletal remains were found inside a Houston-area apartment with three surviving but apparently abandoned siblings, officials said. Brian W. Coulter, the 31-year-old boyfriend of the dead child's mother, was charged Tuesday with murder. The mother, Gloria Y. Williams, 35, was charged with felony injury to a child by omission, and tampering with evidence (human corpse), Harris County Sheriff Ed Gonzalez tweeted Tuesday night. Both were booked into the Harris County Jail without bond pending appearances before a magistrate. It was not immediately clear if the two had attorneys. Gonzalez said more charges are possible. The Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences in Houston, which conducts all autopsies in the county, listed the primary cause of death as "homicidal violence with multiple blunt force injuries."

Coroner IDs suspect in Boise mall shooting that killed 2

BOISE, Idaho (AP)—The suspect in a Boise mall shooting that killed two people and injured four others has died, the Boise Police Department said Tuesday. The Ada County Coroner identified the suspected shooter as Jacob Bergquist, a 27-year-old Boise man. Coroner Dotti Owens said Bergquist's cause of death was still pending, but he died late Tuesday morning at a hospital. Owens identified one of the people killed as Jo Acker, a 26-year-old security guard who worked at the mall. Family members said she died while trying to stop the shooter. The Boise Police Department first got the call that shots had been fired at the Boise Towne Square Mall at about 1:50 p.m., with callers describing a white man dressed in black, in possession of multiple guns.

World

Sudan's prime minister, detained after coup, returns home

CAIRO (AP)—Sudan's deposed prime minister and his wife were allowed to return home Tuesday, a day after they were detained when the military seized power in a coup, according to a statement issued by his office.

The release of Prime Minister Abdallah Hamdok and his wife followed international condemnation of the coup and calls for the military to release all the government officials who were detained when Gen. Abdel-Fattah Burhan seized power on Monday.

The statement by Hamdok's office said other government officials remained in detention, their locations unknown. The deposed prime minister and his wife were under "heavy security" at home in the upscale Kafouri neighborhood of the capital Khartoum, said a military official, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to brief the media. The official did not say whether they were free to leave or make calls.

Earlier in the day, Burhan said Hamdok had been held for his own safety and would be released. But he warned that other members of the dissolved government could face trial as protests against the putsch continued in the streets.

The military seized power in a move that was widely denounced abroad. On Tuesday, pro-democracy demonstrators blocked roads in the capital with makeshift barricades and burning tires. Troops fired on crowds a day earlier, killing four protesters, according to doctors.

AP

People burn tires during a protest a day after the military seized power Khartoum, Sudan, Tuesday, Oct. 26, 2021.

In his second public appearance since seizing power, Burhan said the military was forced to step in to resolve a growing political crisis.

"There were people who were talking about discriminating against others, and that was driving this country to reach a civil war that would lead to the fragmentation of this country, tearing apart its unity, its fabric and society. These dangers were in front of us," Burhan told a televised news conference.

But the coup came less than a month before Burhan was supposed to hand the leadership of the Sovereign Council that runs the country to a civilian—a step that would have decreased the military's hold on power.

"The whole country was deadlocked due to political rivalries," Burhan said. "The experience during the past two years has proven that the participation of political forces in the transitional period is flawed and stirs up strife."

Hamdok had been held at Burhan's home, the general said, and was in good health. But of the many other senior government officials detained Monday, Burhan alleged that some tried to incite a rebellion within the armed forces, saying they would face trial. Others who are found "innocent" would be freed, he added.

The takeover came after weeks of mounting tensions between military and civilian leaders over the course and pace of Sudan's transition to democracy. It threatened to derail that process, which has progressed in fits and starts since the overthrow of longtime autocrat Omar al-Bashir in a popular uprising two years ago.

At an emergency meeting of the U.N. Security Council on Tuesday, U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres urged world powers to unite to confront a recent "epidemic of coups d'état." But the U.N.'s most powerful body took no action during the closed-door consultations about Sudan, a nation in Africa linked by language and culture to the Arab world.

Iraqi officials: 11 killed in IS attack northeast of Baghdad

BAGHDAD (AP)—Gunmen from the Islamic State extremist group attacked a village northeast of Baghdad on Tuesday, killing at least 11 civilians and wounding six others, Iraqi security officials said.

The officials said the attack occurred in the predominantly Shiite village of al-Rashad northeast of Baqouba in Diyala province. The circumstances of the attack were not immediately clear, but two officials who spoke to The Associated Press said Islamic State group militants had kidnapped two villagers earlier and then raided the village when their demands for ransom were not met.

Machine guns were used in the attack, they added, speaking on condition of anonymity in line with regulations. They said all the dead and wounded were civilians.

Attacks targeting civilians have become rare in Iraq since the Islamic State group was largely defeated in the country in 2017, although it remains active through sleeper cells in many areas. Militants from the Sunni Muslim extremist group still conduct operations, often targeting security forces, power stations and other infrastructure.

A roadside bomb attack targeted a Baghdad suburb in July, killing at least 30 people and wounding dozens of others at a crowded market. In January, twin suicide bombings ripped through a busy market in the Iraqi capital, killing at least 32 people and wounding dozens. Iraqi officials blamed IS for those attacks.

WORLD BRIEFS

Cambodia announces phased reopening to vaccinated tourists

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP)—Cambodia's government announced plans Tuesday to reopen the country in several stages to fully vaccinated foreign tourists starting from the end of next month. The program beginning Nov. 30 will allow visitors who are fully vaccinated against the coronavirus to skip being quarantined if they stay at least five days in designated areas, the Tourism Ministry announced. The first such areas are two seaside provinces, Sihanoukville and Koh Kong, on the Gulf of Thailand. On arrival, visitors must show proof they have been vaccinated and take a rapid results test for COVID-19. They can proceed without quarantine if the results are negative. Siem Reap province, home to the famous Angkor temples, is to be added to the quarantine-free province list in January.

Brazil senators recommend Bolsonaro face charges over COVID

BRASILIA, Brazil (AP)—A Brazilian Senate committee recommended on Tuesday that President Jair Bolsonaro face a series of criminal indictments for actions and omissions related to the world's second highest COVID-19 death toll. The 7-to-4 vote was the culmination of a six-month committee investigation of the government's handling of the pandemic. It formally approved a report calling for prosecutors to try Bolsonaro on charges ranging from charlatanism and inciting crime to misuse of public funds and crimes against humanity, and in doing so hold him responsible for many of Brazil's more than 600,000 COVID-19 deaths. The president has denied wrongdoing, and the decision on whether to file most of the charges will be up to Prosecutor-General Augusto Aras, a Bolsonaro appointee who is widely viewed as protecting him. The allegation of crimes against humanity would need to be pursued by the International Criminal Court.

Gag order in Myanmar keeps Suu Kyi's testimony restricted

BANGKOK (AP)—Ousted Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi testified in court for the first time Tuesday in one of several cases against her, but details of what she said were not available because of a gag order on her lawyers. Since last week, all defense lawyers in Suu Kyi's cases have been barred from providing details of the court proceedings. The action was taken under Section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, a broadly worded statute from British colonial times intended to deal with emergency situations that threaten public safety. There have been no signs of unrest related to any of her trials. The only accounts of the proceedings had previously come from lawyers defending her and her co-defendants. The court sessions are closed to reporters and the public, the prosecutors do not comment on them, and the state-controlled media have not reported directly on them.

Fifth Death Anniversary

†DAVID
SABLAN SANTOS

December 22, 1959 – November 7, 2016

We, the family of the late
†David Sablan Santos would like to invite
all our families, relatives and friends to join
us in prayers as we commemorate the
Fifth Death Anniversary of our beloved's
passing into eternal life.

Holy Mass of Intention is being offered nightly at the following schedule:

Saturday	October 30	St. Jude Church	6:00pm
Sunday	October 31	St. Jude Church	6am/8am/10am
Monday	November 1	St. Jude Church	6:00pm
Tuesday	November 2	St. Jude Church	6:00am
Wednesday	November 3	St. Jude Church	6:00pm
Thursday	November 4	St. Jude Church	6:00pm
Friday	November 5	St. Jude Church	6:00pm
Saturday	November 6	St. Jude Church	6:00pm
Sunday	November 7	St. Jude Church	6am/8am/10am

*On the final day, lunch will be served at 11:30am
at the residence of Virginia A. Santos in Koblerville.

**Your prayers and presence are greatly appreciated.
Thank you and Si Yu'us Ma'ase.**

Virginia A. Santos, Children and Family

Environment

Hundreds of used wooden pallets were recycled and converted into tables and chairs at Marianas Creations. L. MAURIN

BUSINESSES FOR THE ENVIRONMENT:

Go eco with Marianas Creations

By IVA MAURIN
CORRESPONDENT

Nature-themed mugs made by Saipan Southern High School students bought from Marianas Creations. Aside from SSHS, Marianas Creations also features artists Bonitu Basula, Ginen I Tåsi, Saipan Weaving, Candle J, and Recycled Art from Saipan International School.
IVA MAURIN

From the first day of planning up to now, Marianas Creations—that charming, artsy cafe-bar-shop along Micro Beach Road—has always been eco-friendly.

As soon as you get there, you'll see, starting at the patio, oil drums, wood pallets, wire spools craftily and beautifully repurposed as tables and chairs, wall decors and shelves, and even as counters at the shop. Even their restroom boasts a cool repurposed sink.

The eco-friendliness of Marianas Creations does not stop there. They highlight products that are made locally, and have preference for ones that are friendly to the environment. The same goes for the food and drinks they serve—locally sourced, with focus on farm-to-table.

And to help the island embrace a more sustainable lifestyle, they give discounts to customers who bring their own tumblers to buy drinks.

Sounds exciting, and so *Saipan Tribune* sat down with *Elina* Gharti Chhetri, owner of Marianas Creations, to talk more about all these environmentally-sound practices they have been implementing as a business, how the community benefits, and also why other businesses should embrace operations that are more eco-friendly.

"As a small business on Saipan, we try our best to highlight products that are local and eco-friendly," Chhetri said. "[We have] always been environmentally proactive because we believe in the preservation of our islands and the environment in general. Regardless of how one feels about climate change, everyone should agree that a cleaner environment is better for everyone."

While she personally reduces, recycles, and repurposes, Chhetri said that as a business owner, it is important to lead by example by making eco-friendly practices an important part of one's business.

"We believe we can educate and influence other people to do the same by showing them our examples, like how we remodeled our shop without buying or shipping anything new, but rather by using repurposed materials. The more people adopt eco-friendly practices, the better it will be for our environment and community," she said.

Buying local is eco-friendly

"Just the fact that we carry only local products made [on] Saipan, Tinian, and Rota helps us be environmentally-friendly. By just choosing local products to sell at our shop, we are saying no to over-reliance on imports and shipments, and we do not have to be a part of it," Chhetri said.

Marianas Creations features artists Bonitu Basula, Ginen I Tåsi, Saipan Weaving, Candle J, Recycled Art from Saipan International School, Sensiña Custom Decals, Recycled pallets products, and many others who do their best to produce art using materials found on island, or that would encourage their customers to recycle or repurpose their products.

According to Chhetri, they are trying to create a market for CNMI residents to buy products produced locally rather than products shipped from outside because not only does this encourage eco-friendly behavior (especially given that most of the artists use materials from the island), buying local also helps keep the money flowing within the community.

Nature-based products showcased at Marianas Creations include Bonita Basula jewelries recycled from found glass pieces at the beach; shell necklaces, and woven craft pieces. CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Marianas Creations owner Elina Gharti Chhetri, center, poses with, from left, Nature's Treasures co-founder/weaver Steven Van Winkle, SaiHi Eats owner Marley Partain, Nature's Treasures co-founder/weaver Samisoni Pome'e, and Gerald Mamis. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

When choosing products that they feature in their shop, Marianas Creations look for two things: local production and materials, and using the most eco-friendly processes.

"Usually the most difficult part is packaging. I give them suggestions on eco-friendly packaging. Most of them are in their development phase, so they can always adjust their ways of delivering products and packaging products to their customers," she said.

"A lot of the artists have changed their style according to our needs and suggestions. There are some exceptions, such as some products like food items that are hard to keep fresh so food products companies have fewer options in packaging," Chhetri said, adding that she will always choose a producer who is being conscious about the environment over one who is not.

Chhetri is quick to clarify, however, that while they have had to reject a few products, they try to carry all that are made ion Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, and support all of the local producers on the premise that those who are producing locally are using local resources. There's no need for products to be shipped from elsewhere—less shipping means less environmental impact.

Farm-to-table

For the food they serve, Marianas Creations is more "farm-to-table" in their approach, especially with their "Plate of the Day." For drinks, they use locally sourced cucumber for their cucumber soda, and locally-sourced ginger for their house ginger ale. They also sell locally made artisan kombucha. Want coffee? They only serve Marianas Coffee.

"In the near future we are planning to grow most of our vegetables and fruits that will be used in our cafe at our farm. For now, we produce several items ourselves that are used in the cafe. Basil and mint are grown on-site at the cafe and used for cocktails," Chhetri said.

They also sell free-range duck and chicken eggs from their farm, Hafa Adai Farms. Marianas Creations collects and sanitizes used egg boxes—drop yours at their store—which they recycle for their fresh eggs.

Conscious about the wastes they generate, Marianas Creations also separate food leftovers at their cafe—and also from Everest Kitchen and Spicy Thai—to repurpose as feed for their ducks and chickens. They send their recyclables to the Recycling Center in Lower Base, and support initiatives to eliminate majority of plastic bags, as well as the sale and use of styrofoam products in the CNMI.

"As an island community, waste management is always going to be an issue," Chhetri said. "All the trash we produce everyday on an island only ends up in a landfill or worse, in the ocean. As humans, we have a responsibility to repair the polluted parts of our ecosystem. As businesses, we have an opportunity to drive change through our adoption of green business practices."

"Every business on island should always think about the impact they're making [on] the environment since we all live here together. If a small business like ours can adopt eco-friendly measures, then imagine how much of a difference it would make if bigger companies would take eco-friendly steps," she said. "Together, we can help our island become more environmentally-friendly."

Marianas Creations is open Wednesdays to Saturdays, from 11am to 9pm. They are located along Micro Beach Road, beside Everest Restaurant. For more in-formation, contact marianascreations670@gmail.com.

Want your environmental initiatives featured? Email ivamaurin@gmail.com.

Life & Style

Potential legal woes mount after 'Rust' shooting tragedy

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Alec Baldwin the actor, who pulled the trigger on a prop gun while filming "Rust" in New Mexico and unwittingly killed a cinematographer and injured a director, likely won't be held criminally or civilly liable for the tragedy.

Baldwin

But Alec Baldwin the producer might be, along with several others in leadership positions for the Western.

Experts predict a tremendous legal fallout from the tragedy, definitely in civil lawsuits and potentially in criminal charges. In addition to Baldwin, a call sheet for the day of the shooting obtained by The Associated Press lists five producers, four executive producers, a line producer and a co-producer. They, as well as assistant director Dave Halls and armorer Hannah Gutierrez, could all face some sort of liability even if they weren't on location Thursday.

The payouts—which could be covered in part by insurance held by the production company, Rust Movie Productions—would likely be in the "millions and millions" of dollars. "There was clearly negligence on the set," said Adam Winkler, a professor at the UCLA School of Law and a gun policy expert. "The producers had a duty to preserve the safety of the crew. There were obvious hazards on the set."

Santa Fe-based District Attorney Mary Carmack-Altwies told the AP on Tuesday that the investigation remains in the preliminary phase and her office was far from making any decisions about whether any charges would be filed. She added that those involved in the production were cooperating with law enforcement.

There are "a lot of people involved and a lot of moving parts," the first-term elected prosecutor said of the circumstances surrounding the shooting death on the set of "Rust."

Authorities said Friday that Halls, the assistant director, had handed the weapon to Baldwin and announced "cold gun," indicating it was safe to use. But it was loaded with live rounds. Cinematographer Halyna Hutchins was fatally shot, and director Joel Souza, who was standing behind her, was wounded.

Baldwin, who is known for his roles in "30 Rock" and "The Hunt for Red October" and his impression of former President Donald Trump on "Saturday Night Live," has described the killing as a "tragic accident."

Authorities to present findings in fatal movie-set shooting

SANTA FE, N.M. (AP)—Law enforcement authorities are scheduled to discuss initial findings about a fatal movie-set shooting with a prop gun discharged by actor Alec Baldwin that left a cinematographer dead and the director wounded.

Scheduled for Wednesday, the news conference by Santa Fe County Sheriff Adan Mendoza and District Attorney Mary Carmack-Altwies promises the first detailed public comments by investigators about the killing of 42-year-old Halyna Hutchins during an on-set rehearsal at a ranch outside Santa Fe.

The sequence of events on Oct. 21 has baffled Hollywood professionals and prompted calls to better regulate movie-set firearms or even ban them in the age of seamless computer-generated imagery.

Court records say that an assistant director, Dave Halls, grabbed the gun from a cart and handed it to Baldwin, indicating the weapon was safe by yelling "cold gun." But it was loaded with live rounds, according to a written affidavit from a detective.

Baldwin, 63, who is known for his roles in "30 Rock," "The Departed" and "The Hunt for Red October" along with impression of former President Donald Trump on "Saturday Night Live," has described the killing as a "tragic accident."

Carmack-Altwies told The Associated Press prior to the news conference that the investigation is still in its early stages—well before decisions are made about whether or not to file criminal charges.

She said those involved in the production were cooperating with law enforcement and that prosecutors won't fully review evidence until the completion of an initial investigation by the sheriff's office.

The gun Baldwin used was one of three that a firearms specialist, or "armorer," had set on a cart outside the building where a scene was being rehearsed, according to court records.

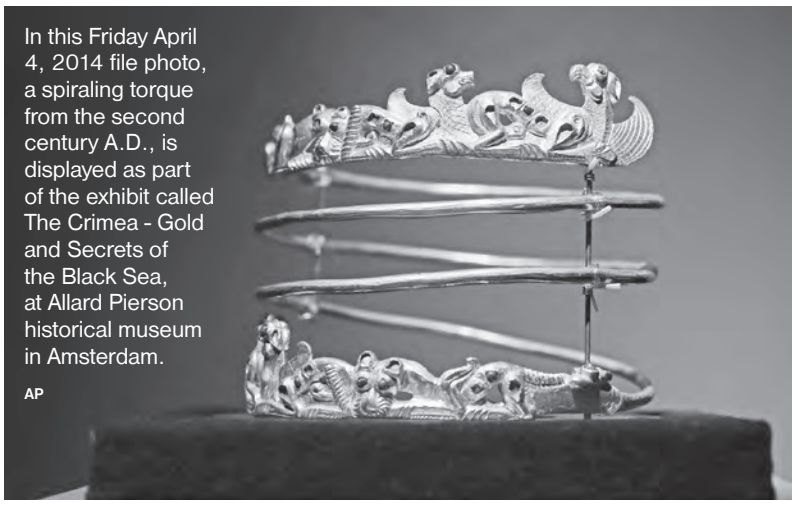
Dutch court: Crimean treasures must be sent to Ukraine

AMSTERDAM (AP)—An Amsterdam appeals court ruled Tuesday that a trove of historical treasures from Crimea that have been stored for years at a Dutch museum must be given to Ukraine, saying they are "part of the cultural heritage of the Ukrainian state."

Ukraine's president hailed the decision as a victory for his country.

The judgment, which can be appealed to the Dutch Supreme Court, upheld a lower court's ruling and was the latest development in a protracted legal tug-of-war about the fate of the artifacts that stems from Russia's annexation of Crimea.

Russia annexed the Crimean Peninsula from Ukraine in 2014, a month after the Allard Pierson Museum opened the "Crimea—Gold and secrets of the Black Sea" exhibition, sparking a dispute over where the borrowed treasures should be returned to. The exhibits have been stored in Amsterdam pending resolution of the dispute.



In this Friday April 4, 2014 file photo, a spiraling torque from the second century A.D., is displayed as part of the exhibit called The Crimea - Gold and Secrets of the Black Sea, at Allard Pierson historical museum in Amsterdam.

AP

Russian officials and lawmakers vowed to appeal.

Nearly five years ago, an Amsterdam court ruled that the objects must be returned to Ukraine and not to four museums in Crimea that loaned them out for a 2014 exhibition. At the time, the court didn't rule on the actual ownership of the approximately 300 artifacts, saying that the issue must be resolved by a Ukrainian court.

Chapelle special spurs Netflix walkout; 'Trans lives matter'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Netflix employees who walked out Wednesday in protest of Dave Chappelle's special and its anti-transgender comments were joined by allies who chanted "Trans lives matter," getting pushback from counterprotesters who also showed up.

A pre-noon rally at a Netflix office-studio complex drew about 100 people, most on the side of an estimated 30 workers at the streaming giant that joined in afterward. Some were willing to identify themselves as Netflix employees, but all declined to provide their names.

Joey Soloway, creator of the groundbreaking Emmy-winning comedy "Transparent," was among the speakers at the rally. Chappelle's decision to share "his outrage as comedic humiliation in front of thousands of people, and then broadcasting it to hundreds of millions of people is infinitely amplified gender violence," they said.

"I want trans representation on the Netflix board, this (expletive) week," the writer-director said.

Ashlee Marie Preston, an activist and the event's organizer, addressed the rally and spoke to The Associated Press afterward. She said that calling out Chappelle for his remarks wasn't enough.

"It was important to shift the focus to the people that sign the checks, because Dave Chappelle doesn't sign checks, Netflix does," Preston said. "If we have companies like Netflix who aren't listening to their employees, who are forcing their employees to participate in their own oppression, that's unacceptable."

Female workers prefer to maintain professionalism

DEAR ABBY: My co-workers and I want to know how to handle customers who ask us out. We are an all-female staff at a liquor store, and our job is kind of like being a bartender without pouring drinks. Our customers are happy to see us after a long day at work and sometimes misinterpret our excellent customer service skills as flirting and ask us out.

It is sometimes a very uncomfortable situation because we are paid to be kind and don't know how to say no without causing a loss of business for our company or possibly putting ourselves in a dangerous situation. Can you give us some guidance on how to delicately handle these moments?

ON THE JOB IN MISSOURI

DEAR ON THE JOB: A polite turndown to the invitation would be, "Thank you for the compliment, but I never date a customer. It's against the rules."

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I have a longtime friend who is an amazing person. He has almost every positive attribute anyone could want—he's smart, hardworking, successful, strong and athletic, fit and attractive, generous, witty, etc.

His only flaw is a big one. He lacks empathy and is sometimes very insensitive. Over the years, on a number of occasions, he has said or done things that left me feeling humiliated. He doesn't seem to understand that it isn't how generous you were to them, people remember how you make them FEEL.

He has few real friends who can tolerate him, and some have walked out of his life. I'm on the verge of doing the same thing. How can I get him to change his behavior before it is too late? (We are both older men.)

HUMILIATED IN ALBUQUERQUE

DEAR HUMILIATED: Point out to this person that, more than once, he has said or done things that made you feel humiliated. While you're at it, mention that this unpleasant trait is what has caused "Tom," "Dick," "Harry," "Sleepy" and "Grumpy" to walk out of his life. Then tell him you no longer intend to allow it to happen to you, and if it happens again, you will join the others.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am looking for advice about whether I'm violating any ethics while walking my dogs. I walk my two dogs almost every day so the dogs can perform their business. I always pick up what they leave behind, as I don't like having any dog's business left on my lawn. During these walks, I pass trash containers on the street that belong to my neighbors. Sometimes I place my dog's business in their trash containers. Since my walks are long, it's not convenient to carry the used bags all the way home. Is this wrong to do?

DOGGY BUSINESS

DEAR DOGGY: What you are doing is a big no-no. Many homeowners feel as territorial about their trash receptacles as you do your lawn. If you think I'm exaggerating, let a few of those homeowners catch you in the act. Readers, do you agree with me? One of my staff members feels that if the container is on the curb awaiting pickup, there is no harm.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

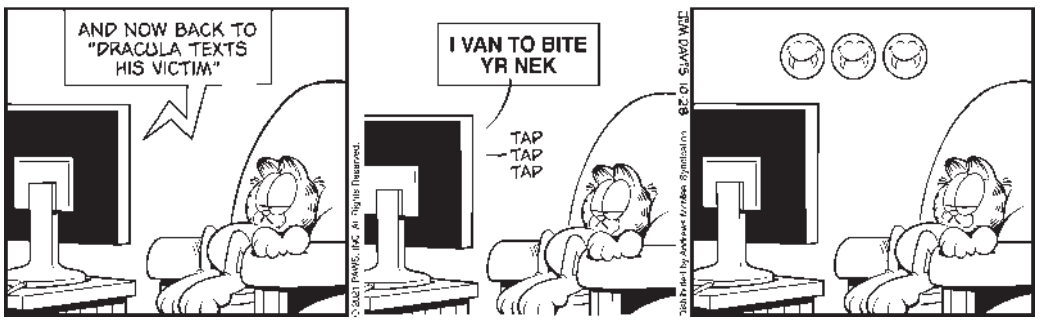
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis



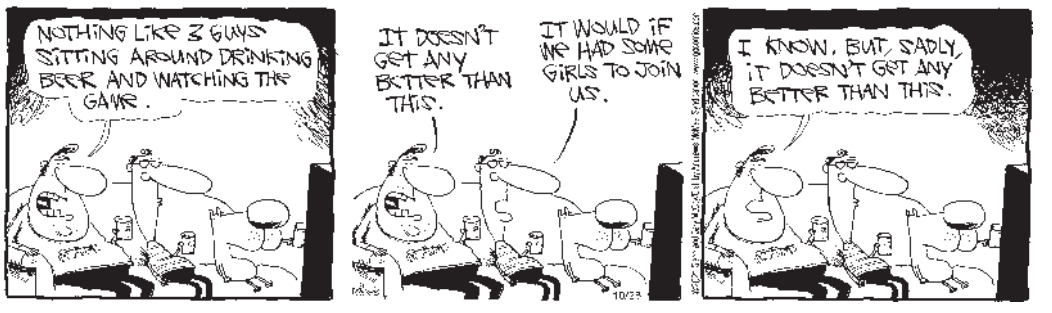
Adam@Home

By Bryan Basset

SO, YOU KNOW HOW I SCARED KATY REALLY BAD?
YEAH?
SHE'S ACTING LIKE IT WAS NO BIG DEAL.
THAT IS CHILLING.
RIGHT? IS WITNESS PROTECTION AN OPTION?

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


NOTHING LIKE 3 GUYS SITTING AROUND DRINKING BEER AND WATCHING THE GAME.
IT DOESN'T GET ANY BETTER THAN THIS.
IT WOULD IF WE HAD SOME GIRLS TO JOIN US.
I KNOW. BUT SADLY, IT DOESN'T GET ANY BETTER THAN THIS.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Branch
5 Ninny
9 Big bird of Australia
12 Wicked
13 Portnoy's creator
14 Cover
15 Quick bucks
17 Spanish gold
18 Complex
19 Massenet opera
21 "That's a laugh!"
22 Fulton's power
24 Quaker pronoun
27 "— good deed"
28 Embraces
31 Candy-heart word
32 Granola grain
33 Mermaid's home
34 Grouch
36 Financial pro
37 Distort
38 Pandemic cover-ups
40 Apt. cooler
41 "The Bell Jar" author
43 Alpine home
47 Corn spike
48 Deli sandwich order
51 Slugger's stat
52 "Star Wars" royal
53 Get ready, briefly
54 Employ
55 Kermit, for one
56 RSVP enclosure

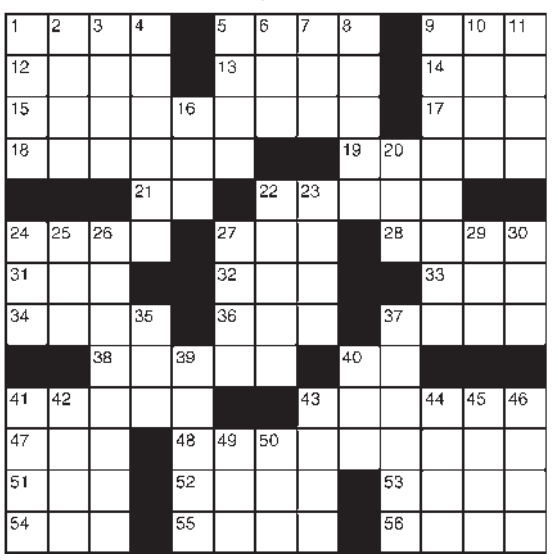
DOWN

1 Onion relative
2 Terrible guy?
3 Japanese soup
4 Actress Danner
5 Helen's home
6 Triumphed
7 Mineral suffix
8 Minty herb
9 SpaceX founder
10 Surrealist Joan
11 Japanese noodle
16 Kingston Trio hit
20 "That feels so good!"
22 Shower bars?
23 "Toodle-oo!"
24 Pampering, for short
25 "Ben- —"
26 Saint of Hollywood
27 Berth place
29 "My word!"
30 Cutting tool
35 Belfry critter
37 Rapscallions
39 Book keeper
40 "Now I get it!"
41 Lima's land
42 "CSI" settings
43 Rocky outcrop
44 Zhivago's love
45 Spuds' buds
46 Hit the bottle
49 Boomer's kid
50 Uncle (Sp.)

Solution time: 24 mins.

D	A	D	S	■	S	O	S	■	A	L	P	S
I	B	E	T	■	E	A	T	■	C	I	I	I
V	E	N	E	R	A	T	E	■	A	B	U	T
A	L	S	A	C	E	■	A	C	C	E	S	S
■	■	■	D	A	C	■	A	I	R	■	■	■
P	E	G	■	S	L	O	■	N	A	A	C	P
A	M	E	R	■	S	U	B	■	S	T	A	T
D	U	N	F	S	■	R	F	F	■	F	D	S
■	■	■	E	M	I	T	■	Q	E	D	■	■
E	U	R	O	P	E	■	U	N	I	S	O	N
A	N	A	T	■	E	M	I	G	R	A	T	E
S	I	T	E	■	T	A	E	■	G	L	O	W
E	I	E	S	■	H	O	I	■	E	K	E	S

Yesterday's answer 10-28



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Nolan Gould, 23; Julia Roberts, 54; Bill Gates, 66; Annie Potts, 69.

Happy Birthday: Organize your thoughts. It's important to understand the ramifications of every move or decision you make. Take a positive approach to life, love and happiness, and it will help you avoid getting trapped in drama that wastes your time and energy. Engage in gaining experience, knowledge and hope for a better future. Leave nothing to chance; protect your health and money. Your numbers are 5, 12, 17, 28, 32, 35, 44.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Rest, rejuvenate and start all over again. How you handle events and activities that are physically challenging will affect your emotional well-being. Aim to do things that are conducive to putting your mind at ease, not stirring things up. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Don't throw caution to the wind. Know what you are up against, and do whatever it takes to stay on top of your game. Stability, consistency and adjusting to whatever is right and best for you is the route to take. ✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Leave nothing to chance or undone. Trace your steps as far as you must go to ensure you get things right moving forward. Trust in you and the facts you verify. Your dedication and loyalty will help you advance. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* It's up to you to get the ball rolling. Don't wait for someone to beat you at your own game. Take a lead position, follow through with your plans and pursue what makes you happy. Make an adjustment that suits your budget. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Keep the peace at home and when dealing with peers. A change someone makes may not align with your plans, but that doesn't mean you shouldn't follow the path that suits you. Do your own thing, and pursue what matters to you. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Money matters will escalate if someone pressures you to donate to something that makes you feel uncomfortable. Take the initiative and decline. Put your money into something that will benefit you directly, like education, equipment or gaining experience. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Be tactful in handling situations that deal with colleagues or someone who can put a dent in your reputation, status or position. Offer a positive, upbeat attitude along with generosity, truth and a helping hand. Choose peace over discord. Romance and passion are encouraged. ✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* A debate will disrupt a friendship or cause a family feud. Think before you share your point of view. Be a good listener, and you'll be able to sidestep a situation that can lead to a change that doesn't favor you. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Tighten up your finances to save for something unique. Build your future on concrete plans, and you'll make an impression on someone who recognizes your experience and values your input. An opportunity will fund your wish list. Romance and self-improvement are favored. ✪✪✪✪✪

CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* A request an older associate offers will not line up with your vision. Take the high road, and find a way to incorporate the old with the new. Your insight and adaptability will win favors and ward off a dispute. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Keep your eye on the ball, and be willing to accommodate someone you need in your corner. A change may not be welcome, but with a bit of finagling, you'll find a way to get what you want without interference. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Emotions will surface over shared expenses and responsibilities. Take care of your fair share, then move on to more enjoyable tasks. Connect with someone who can make a difference in your life and the way you live. ✪✪✪

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	9			2		3		
1					5			6
		4	7			9		
	4					7		
3								2
		5					4	
		3			1	8		
5			6					9
	2			4		5		

Difficulty Level ★★★ 10/28

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

6	8	3	2	5	9	1	4	7
9	7	4	6	3	1	8	5	2
5	2	1	4	7	8	6	3	9
2	3	6	8	9	4	5	7	1
8	5	7	3	1	6	9	2	4
4	1	9	7	2	5	3	8	6
3	9	2	1	8	7	4	6	5
7	4	5	9	6	3	2	1	8
1	6	8	5	4	2	7	9	3

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

DAPPER DRESSERS **Solution: 6 letters**

D	E	T	E	K	C	A	J	G	N	I	H	S	A	D
L	E	B	S	E	H	C	T	A	W	C	U	F	F	S
A	E	B	O	T	I	J	E	W	E	L	R	Y	A	D
C	D	A	O	R	C	G	B	S	T	R	I	H	S	R
C	E	O	T	N	D	L	Ⓝ	Ⓔ	Ⓐ	Ⓣ	T	A	H	O
E	M	H	C	H	A	R	M	I	N	G	A	T	I	F
S	O	A	O	Z	E	I	A	T	H	L	I	S	O	X
S	O	I	E	D	E	R	R	W	R	T	L	T	N	O
O	R	R	T	V	E	E	L	O	A	E	O	Y	U	Y
R	G	C	A	R	N	X	A	B	E	X	R	L	D	S
I	Y	U	I	G	I	P	U	K	W	S	T	I	C	S
Z	S	T	I	U	A	M	S	T	S	U	T	S	B	A
E	T	S	F	I	E	G	A	T	N	I	V	H	E	S
A	E	C	R	I	S	P	C	D	E	T	A	I	L	V
D	W	O	M	A	N	F	O	R	M	A	L	R	T	Y

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Accessorize, Attire, Belt, Blazer, Bowtie, Casual, Charming, Chic, Clothing, Crisp, Cuffs, Dashing, Debonair, Designer, Detail, Fashion, Formal, Groomed, Haircut, Hats, Jacket, Jewelry, Leather, Menswear, Neat, Nifty, Oxfords, Pair, Sassy, Shirt, Sleek, Smooth, Stylish, Suave, Suit, Swag, Tailor, Tidy, Trim, Tuxedo, Vest, Vintage, Wardrobe, Watches, Woman

Yesterday's Answer: Valley

The NEW **Treasury 43** can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

Soler, Braves overcome Morton injury, top Astros in Game 1

HOUSTON (AP) — A healthy swing by Jorge Soler powered the Atlanta Braves to a smashing start in the World Series.

Making his first start since testing positive for COVID-19, Soler became the first player to begin a World Series with a home run and the Braves, despite the loss of pitcher Charlie Morton to a broken leg, hushed the Houston Astros 6-2 Tuesday night in Game 1.

Boosted by a strong bullpen effort, a two-run homer by Adam Duvall and a late sacrifice fly from Freddie Freeman, the Braves coasted in their first Series appearance since Chipper Jones and their Big Three aces ascended in 1999.

Jose Altuve, Carlos Correa and the Astros mostly looked lost at the plate. This is their third World Series in five seasons—and first since their illegal sign-stealing scheme was revealed.

Before the game, Major League Baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred said there were plenty of sleuths monitoring the dugouts, clubhouse and stands to guard against any possible shenanigans.

"There's a lot more people watching what goes on as a result of the issues that we've had," he said.

Soler's no-doubt jolt into the left-field seats on Framber Valdez's third pitch quickly took all the juice out of Minute Maid Park, quieting a boisterous, sellout crowd.

AP

Atlanta Braves' Jorge Soler celebrates with Ozzie Albies after a home run during the first inning of Game 1 in baseball's World Series between the Houston Astros and the Atlanta Braves Tuesday, Oct. 26, 2021, in Houston.

Fresh off dispatching the defending World Series champion Dodgers in the playoffs, the Braves weren't done, either. Aggressive in every way, they kept teeing off against their former, longtime National League rivals.

Moments later, Ozzie Albies stole a base and Austin Riley hit an RBI double, taking a rare swing at a 3-0 pitch.

Soler added an RBI grounder in the second and when Duvall launched a two-run homer, it was 5-0 and the Braves had made even more October history—the only team to score in each of the first three innings in a World Series opener.

At that point, Braves batters were far from the only ones making noise. The few Atlanta fans sprinkled in the sea of orange had started their familiar chant, too.

By then, it looked as if everything was going right for the Braves.

But baseball can be a fickle game, and the fates can spin faster than the best curveball.

Because in the bottom the third, Atlanta absorbed its own big hit.

As he struck out Altuve, Morton suddenly grimaced and took an awkward step. His teammates, manager Brian Snitker and a trainer soon joined him on the mound, and just like that, Morton was gone.

Turned out a hard comebacker by Yuli Gurriel that ricocheted off Morton's leg to Freeman at first base for an out to begin the second had done more damage than anyone realized.

Morton stayed in for another inning, amazingly, before gingerly walking off with a fractured right fibula. The 37-year-old righty, the winning pitcher for the Astros in Game 7 of the 2017 World Series, will be replaced on the roster. He's expected to be OK for spring training.

A.J. Minter replaced Morton and got the win, permitting one run in 2 2/3 innings. Atlanta relievers Tyler Matzek, Luke Jackson and Will Smith finished it.

Game 2 is Wednesday night, with Braves lefty Max Fried starting against Astros right-hander José Urquidy.

Altuve and the Astros did little all night. The All-Star second baseman struck out three times—he'd never done that in 73 prior postseason games.

Alex Bregman, Yordan Alvarez and the Astros never seriously threatened in the later innings. Their only runs, in fact, came on shortstop Dansby Swanson's fielding error in the fourth and Correa's groundout in the eighth.

In fact, the game wasn't nearly as close as the score indicated. It was more like a romp — during the seventh-inning stretch, as fans did a sing-a-long to "Deep In The Heart of Texas," Braves backup catcher William Contreras locked arms with starter Travis d'Arnaud and did a little Texas two-step as they switched places warming up Jackson.

Ohtani gets special award from MLB for two-way All-Star season

HOUSTON (AP)—Shohei Ohtani's two-way All-Star season with the Los Angeles Angels was so unprecedented that Major League Baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred presented a special award to recognize it.

Ohtani was given the Commissioner's Historic Achievement Award by Manfred before Game 1 of the World Series on Tuesday night.

"Over the next few years, I know that there are going to be many, many awards and accolades that come your way," Manfred said, with Ohtani sitting next to him. "But I felt that 2021 was so special that it was important to recognize the historic achievement that took place in 2021 with an award just about 2021."

Ohtani is the 16th recipient of the honor, and the first since Manfred succeeded Bud Selig as commissioner in 2015.

Ohtani had 46 home runs, 100 RBIs and 26 stolen bases this season, his fourth in the majors after playing in his native Japan. In 23 starts on the mound, he was 9-2 with a 3.18 ERA while striking out 156 batters.

The 27-year-old Ohtani is the most accomplished two-way player since Babe Ruth, who last pitched regularly in 1919. Ohtani was the first two-way starter in the history of the All-Star Game, which began in 1933. While pitching for the American League, he also batted in the leadoff spot after being elected by fans to start at designated hitter.

"It's really an unbelievable set of accomplishments," Manfred said.

"This award is not given out every year, so I know how special it is," Ohtani said through his translator. "I'm not fully sure if I really deserve it, but since Mr. Manfred's going to give it to me, I'm going to accept it."

Manfred quickly responded that Ohtani did deserve it.

Valdez shaky in 6-2 Game 1 loss to Braves

HOUSTON (AP)—Framber Valdez was confident he could rein in his emotions — that starting Game 1 of the World Series wouldn't big too big for him.

Three pitches in, he was already behind.

Jorge Soler sent that third pitch from Valdez into the seats in left field, and he and the Astros couldn't recover in a 6-2 loss to the Atlanta Braves on Tuesday night.

"It was my first World Series game, so I'm not going to tell you that I didn't feel the pressure, I didn't feel any kind of tension," Framber said in Spanish through a translator. "But I did everything I could to lower that, lower the adrenaline, lower the emotion I was feeling."

Valdez allowed one run in eight sterling innings of a win over the Red Sox in Game 5 of the AL Championship Series, giving the Astros optimism he could help stabilize a rotation rocked by the loss of staff ace Lance McCullers Jr.

Instead, he permitted a playoff career-high five runs while getting just six outs to force Houston to cobble together seven innings with a bullpen that's carried a heavy load this postseason.

"It's a shocker, when you come off a great outing like he just did, then the first batter hits it out of the ballpark," manager Dusty Baker said. "So it was kind of a negative from the very beginning."

It was the shortest start in the opening game of a World Series since 2005, when Houston's Roger Clemens permitted three runs in just two innings of a loss to the Chicago White Sox. Chicago went on to sweep that series in four games.

Valdez allowed eight hits and walked one in his eighth postseason appearance and seventh start. It was the shortest outing of his playoff career, including his relief appearance.

"It was maybe trying to do a bit too much, throwing a bit too hard," he said. "I was in the zone but not exactly where I wanted to be, not where the catcher wanted it either."

Aside from that overpowering Game 5 against Boston, Valdez has struggled this month. He gave up four runs in 4 1/3 innings starting Game 2 of an AL Division Series against the White Sox, then was pulled after 2 2/3 innings and three runs in the opener of the ALCS.

After the homer by Soler, Ozzie Albies singled with one out before swiping second base. An RBI double by Austin Riley came next to make it 2-0 and send pitching coach Brent Strom out to try to calm Valdez.

He retired the next two batters to end the inning but quickly found trouble in the second when Travis d'Arnaud led off with a single. There was one out and runners at second and third when Soler reached and d'Arnaud scored on a fielder's choice that left Joc Pederson out at third.

Freddie Freeman walked before Valdez thought he'd escaped the inning, but Albies legged out an infield single to load the bases. As first base umpire Tom Hallion motioned that Albies was safe, the emotions that Valdez spoke at length about controlling Monday were written all over his face.

He crouched and shook his head, remaining there for a few seconds staring at the grass and looking stunned. He gathered himself and struck Austin Riley out to end that inning. He pounded his first into his glove triumphantly after that, but his trouble was far from done.

Back out for the third, Eddie Rosario greeted him with a single, and another visit from Strom followed. This chat didn't help, and Adam Duvall ended his night with a bang when he smacked a liner into the short porch in left field to leave the Braves up 5-0.

"He probably threw a little bit too hard, and it ends up being kind of a nothing fastball," Baker said. "So we had to go get him at that point."

Valdez trudged off the mound as Yimi García trotted in from the bullpen.

The Astros have struggled with inconsistent starters through much of this postseason. Tuesday was the fifth game their starter failed to get out of the third inning.

Valdez was already looking ahead as soon as the game ended and is focused on how he can be better next time he takes the mound.

"We're going to look at the errors I made and think about how I can clean those things up ... how come I lost focus a little bit there in the first inning, and what I can do to correct those things before the next outing," he said.

Gobert leads Jazz over Nuggets 122-110 as Jokic gets hurt

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—Rudy Gobert had 23 points and 16 rebounds and Donovan Mitchell added 22 points to lead the Utah Jazz to a 122-110 win over the Denver Nuggets on Tuesday night in a game where Nikola Jokic left with a knee injury.

The reigning NBA MVP had 24 points in just 15 first-half minutes before he got hurt.

Mike Conley and Bojan Bogdanovic each contributed 15 for the Jazz, who moved to 3-0 on the season.

Two minutes before halftime, Jokic banged knees with Gobert and stayed down holding his right leg. He eventually got up with assistance and limped to the locker room. He will be examined again, but initial injury report was a knee contusion.

Aaron Gordon scored 20 points and Monte Morris had 19 for the Nuggets, who dropped to 2-2. After period of lights-out shooting, Denver went 7-for-19 from the field in the fourth quarter.

Denver took its last lead at 93-91 before Gobert fueled Utah's decisive move. His free throws finished an 11-2 run and the Jazz stayed in front the rest of the way.

The game had high emotion uncharacteristic for an early-season encounter. It boiled over with 4:57 remaining when Hassan Whiteside and JaMychal Green started pushing, bumping and jawing—but not throwing punches—before teammates and security separated the pair.

Both were assessed technical fouls and ejected from the game.

The two teams have recent history of shootouts, including a memorable series in The NBA Playoff bubble in 2020. This had all the same traits until the Nuggets ran out of gas.

AP

Utah Jazz guard Jordan Clarkson (00) goes to the basket as Denver Nuggets Jeff Green (32) defends in the second half during an NBA basketball game Tuesday, Oct. 26, 2021, in Salt Lake City.

The Nuggets dropped a game to Cleveland, 99-87, on Monday night.

The Jazz, who had the best record in the regular season last season, are working with the same primary group of players and looked dominant for most of the first two games. But the Nuggets carved the Utah defense with ball movement, advantages on Jazz switches, and pinpoint shooting.

Gordon and Jokic combined to make their first 11 field goal attempts of the game but the Nuggets devolved into a series of ineffective one-on-one isolations down the stretch while the Jazz were getting layups and free throws on the other end.

Clarkson capped a 14-0 Jazz run with a 3-pointer to put Utah up 42-31 while keeping the Nuggets scoreless for more than four minutes — the only real quiet period for Denver's high-powered offense.

Knicks 112, 76ers 99

In New York, Kemba Walker scored 19 points in his best game with his hometown team and the New York Knicks snapped a 15-game losing streak against the Philadelphia 76ers with a 112-99 victory Tuesday night.

Evan Fournier added 18 points in the Knicks' first victory over Philadelphia since April 12, 2017. Julius Randle had 16 points, 11 rebounds and seven assists.

Joel Embiid didn't have a field goal in the first half of his career loss to the Knicks, who seized control by outscoring Philadelphia 39-16 in the second quarter.

Tobias Harris scored 23 points for the 76ers. Embiid finished with 14 points and six rebounds, shooting just 2 for 7. He had been 12-0 in games he played against New York.

Warriors 106, Thunder 98

In Oklahoma City, Stephen Curry scored 23 points and the Warriors remained unbeaten, rallying in the second half to beat the Thunder.

Andrew Wiggins had 21 points and Damion Lee scored 20 for the Warriors, who have opened the season with four straight wins.

Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 30 points on 11-of-19 shooting for the winless Thunder.

Oklahoma City led by 11 points at halftime and by 12 midway through the third quarter before Golden State began chipping away.

A 3-pointer by Otto Porter Jr. put the Warriors ahead for the first time, 78-76, with a minute left in the third. The Warriors took an 81-76 edge into the fourth, and they remained in control the rest of the way.

Mavericks 116, Rockets 106

In Dallas, Luka Doncic had 26 points and 14 rebounds, Reggie Bullock had his best game with his new team by scoring 16 points and the Mavericks beat the Rockets in coach Jason Kidd's first home game Tuesday night.

Kristaps Porzingis had another rough shooting night, starting 1 of 9 before finally making his 3-pointer and leaving a short time later. The oft-injured Porzingis didn't return because of lower back tightness. He came into the game with a black eye.

Eric Gordon scored 22 points, and Christian Wood had 16 points and 17 rebounds for the Rockets, who lost Dallas' home opener for the first time after winning the previous three times.

Tim Hardaway Jr. scored 16 points, including the first bucket of the second half to start a 13-0 Dallas run for a 70-60 lead.

After the Porzingis 3 gave the Mavericks their biggest lead to that point at 73-62, the Rockets answered with a 10-0 run before Dallas posted up Doncic to end the run.

Lakers 125, Spurs 121, OT

In San Anotnio, Anthony Davis had 35 points and 17 rebounds, Russell Westbrook added 33 points and 10 rebounds, and the Lakers rallied without LeBron James to beat the Spurs.

Dejounte Murray had 21 points, 15 assists and 12 rebounds for his fifth career triple-double, and he missed a jumper in the closing seconds that would have won it for the Spurs. Jakob Poeltl added 27 points and 14 rebounds for San Antonio, and Lonnie Walker IV had a season-high 21 points.

James missed the Lakers' first road game of the season with a sore right ankle, an injury that occurred in Sunday's win over Memphis. The Lakers decided to be cautious with the early-season injury.

Malik Monk started in James' place and gave the Lakers a 114-112 lead on a 3-pointer with 58.6 seconds remaining. Monk finished with 17 points and was 4-for-10 on 3-pointers.

Davis and Westbrook had season highs in scoring. Playing before a sold-out AT&T Center that was equally divided between the two teams, the Lakers won their second straight to reach .500.

Analysis: Pop's still coaching because he's still having fun

By TIM REYNOLDS
AP BASKETBALL WRITER

The final buzzer sounded at the Tokyo Olympics, the gold medal for the U.S. was won and Gregg Popovich held his emotions in check for at least a couple of minutes.

He shook hands with France coach Vincent Collet. He consoled some of the French players who had to settle for silver. His expression barely changed.

And then he walked across the court, to a small group of people in the first couple rows of the stands. That's when the emotions began to flow, when he embraced a group that included Ime Udoka, Will Hardy, Chip Engelland and Jeff Van Gundy. The people who gave up their summer, quietly, to help him out.

"I'm still smiling," Popovich said.

Relationships matter to Popovich more than the wins.

That is why he's still coaching. And if Popovich knows how much longer he'll coach, he's not saying. But the final chapter of his coaching life is coming. He turns 73 in January. He's in his 26th season on the San Antonio Spurs sideline. He has faced 158 different coaches in the NBA, or roughly half of anyone who has coached in the league's 75 seasons.

His resume has no end. He is a five-time NBA champion, coach of an Olympic gold medalist and someone who will be a Basketball Hall of Famer after he retires—an honor he doesn't want until after he is done coaching. And this season, the oldest coach in the league is leading one of the youngest rosters he's ever had.

All that said, if anything, the gold medal didn't leave Popovich thinking there was no stone left to turn. It seemed to reinvigorate him.

"We were proud, we wanted to do it for him and help him do it," said Udoka, now in his first season coaching the Boston Celtics. "And so, to see the relief and get that monkey off his back, so to speak, it was a great time for all of us. So many hours spent behind the scenes, grinding away and trying to figure out how to make that team the best."

Udoka is an example of how deep the ties run in Popovich's very small circle of trust. When Udoka got hired by the Celtics, Popovich said he'd understand if Udoka left his role with the U.S. team to go focus on the new task in Boston.

Udoka had a staff to hire, summer league to oversee, roster decisions to help make. Popovich didn't want to stand in the way of any of that. Udoka didn't need long to recommit to the U.S. team.

"For me, it was a no-brainer," Udoka said.

Hardy could have found other things to do this summer. Engelland and Van Gundy, too. So could the likes of Miami's Erik Spoelstra, Gonzaga's Mark Few and Orlando's Jamahl Mosley, all of whom were part of the U.S. camp in Las Vegas and were in every meeting with Popovich before the team left for Japan.

They all chose to be part of Team USA, or perhaps more specifically, Team Pop.

"They did a great job in a very difficult situation," said Charlotte coach James Borrego, another former Popovich assistant.

Popovich is a U.S. Air Force Academy graduate, considered a career as a spy, tried out for — and by some accounts, should have made — the 1972 U.S. Olympic team, speaks out often on political issues. The games this summer mattered more than he let on.

"I don't think Pop has ever felt the pressure that he felt to go get this done for our country," Borrego said. "Wearing that USA across his chest, he felt a real responsibility to produce, win a gold and put out a good product."

It's no different now with the Spurs. He just wants a good product.

In a season already with some major problematic storylines—the Kyrie Irving saga in Brooklyn, Ben Simmons' mess of a relationship with Philadelphia, Enes Kanter speaking out on political matters and adding to the complexity of the ties between the NBA and China—San Antonio is doing what it does: just playing the game while avoiding messy situations.

Nobody is picking them as a title contender this season, which is fine with Popovich. He doesn't mind that in a league where superstars rule, the Spurs have no superstars. They'll play fast this season and they'll play simple. He says he's going to enjoy coaching a team like that.

"Pop stays the course," Borrego said.

He's still enjoying what he does, still on the Olympic group text where he and everyone who helped him out this summer talk just about every day, someone without fail mentioning the gold medal. He loves coaching Josh Primo, the 18-year-old who was born almost a decade into Popovich's coaching career. The game, to him, is still fun.

"It's exciting as hell," Popovich said.

In other words, just like in Tokyo, he's still smiling—and still coaching.

CNMI fans seem to favor Braves in World Series

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Island fans of America's favorite pastime have a long memory and they are also fiercely loyal to their favorite teams and to some degree the league their teams belong to.

That seems to be the case as the Houston Astros still can't seem to shake the stigma of their signal-stealing scandal in the 2017-2018 season and most of the people *Saipan Tribune* reached out to are true-blue Los Angeles Dodgers fans. In the absence of their favorite team, they're rooting for the Atlanta Braves to win it all in the 2021 World Series.

For me and if I could borrow Rhett Butler's line "Frankly, my dear, I don't give a damn," I have no horse in this race ever since those "cheating" Astros beat my beloved Red Sox in the ALCS. At least, Boston did beat those darn Yankees (sorry James Lee) in the wild card game. Come to think of it, since Aaron "Bleeping" Boone sent the Red Sox home in the 2004 ALCS, the Red Sox haven't lost to their bitter rivals in the playoffs and that's the only real solace I can take from this season.

But if I'm forced to choose a team to take the Fall Classic this year, I'd join the Braves bandwagon. Atlanta is baseball's version of the Buffalo Bills (Sorry Brad Ruszala). In the '90s, the Braves had five trips to the World Series but only won it all in 1995 with runner-up finishes in the 1991, 1992, 1996, and 1999. So, as I always have a bleeding heart toward sob stories, I really hope Atlanta gets to take home The Commissioner's Trophy this year.

So without further ado, here are what island folks think how the World Series will pan out this year.

Santos

Honestly, if the Dodgers are not in the World Series, I don't care. That said I hope the Braves sweep the Cheaters.

Jay Santos
Saipan Baseball League president

Satur

I just want the American League to take the World Series crown. The Astros are masters of picking up signs of the opposing coaches.

Tony Satur
Capitol Hill

Hodschneider

Was rooting for the Red Sox to pull through. Astros are tough but Braves!

Sen. Jude Hofschneider
Tinian

When I started watching baseball, I was a Braves fan for the NL, and a Yankees fan for the AL. Since New York isn't in this year, I'm going for Atlanta. Well, if you look at the Braves' WS record, yeah it's not the greatest. But if you look at their record of winning division titles, they're usually a favorite to at least always bein the playoffs. I mean, obviously Maddox, Smoltz, and Chipper aren't there anymore. I'm interested to see how these young'uns are going to fair.

Castro

L.J. Castro
CNMI Youth Congress secretary/coordinator

Villanueva

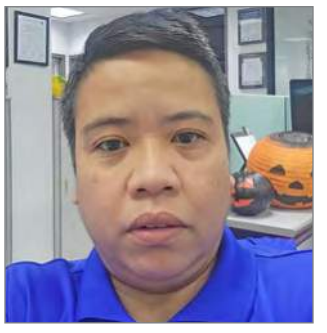
I'm a Padres fan! But I'm rooting for the Braves. I think their pitching has been superb. Houston has a large chip on their shoulder since the scandal but they are rocket hot too.

Shayne Villanueva
Roil Soil Marketing

King

I'm rooting for the Braves. I'm actually a fan of the White Sox and the Braves is an underdog team too. Like I said, I am an underdog fan.

Christopher SN King
Tinian



Monroyo

As much as a I hate the Astros for ousting my Boston Red Sox, I would pick the Houston team in six games. The stats gods favor the Astros—league best 823 runs, nearly .500 batting average, and three World Series appearances in the last five years. The Braves may have won Game 1, but I don't think the Astros would let Atlanta steal their opportunity to prove doubters wrong about the team's ability to win another ring.

Roselyn Monroyo
Garapan

Borja

Braves won fair and square over the Dodgers (well as far as we know) and they didn't need to resort to trash can banging, etc. So Braves. But I'm still a Dodgers fan.

Iva Borja
Capitol Hill

Estigoy

Braves are going to win the World Series. I'm really a Dodgers fan, so I'm rooting for the team that defeated by beloved LA team.

Marlon Estigoy
Los Angeles and former Saipan resident

NMI

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ond half to complete the rout. Dylan Mister drew first blood for the winning squad with his goal in the 17th minute and was followed by Martin Jambor (32nd), Gabriel Arkoh, Jr. (44th), Rakib Hassan (50th), Michiteru Mita (64th), and Richard Castro (79th).

In another one-sided game in the MSL Cup, Kohtaro Goto made a hat trick to lift the NMI U18 to its second win. Richard Steele chipped in two, while Akira Kadokura and Phillip Megino added one apiece.

HAFA ADAI CUP
Chang Bai Hu 7, Matansa 1

Chang Bai Hu notched its first win of the season after dominating Matansa last Sunday.

Ming Guang Xu tallied three goals in the lopsided victory of Chang Bai Hu, which dropped its opener to The One FC. Four other players contributed to Chang Bai Hui's win, while Young Ha Hwang hit the lone goal for Matansa.

The One FC 1, Shirley's 0

The One FC took the lead in the division after nipping Shirley's FC in the nightcap last Sunday.

Zhipeng Lin recorded the winning goal for The One FC, which earned in second victory in as many match.

Island Star 4, Kanoa 3

The Island Star-Kanoa tiff last Friday was also decided by one goal.

Xiao Feng Ling delivered a hat-trick for Island Star, including the go-ahead in the 76th minute. He logged all his goals in the second half, while Changwu Ruan posted the other one for Island Star's first win of the season.

Davy Laxa had a pair of Kanoa, while James Garcia made one.

Saipan United 3, NMI Women's 1

Saipan United also prevailed in its opener last weekend after topping the NMI Women's National Team.

Ichiro Borja fired two goals, while MD Soheal got one. Jannah Casarino recorded the lone goal for the NMI Women's.

Saipan United will go for win No. 2 this Friday when it takes on Bangladesh Youth at 6:30pm, while NMI Women's faces Island Star in the second match at 8pm.

NMSA

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posed amendments to the charter and the NMI's presentation on the updates about the preparations for the 2022 Pacific Mini Games.

"The NMSA will continue to engage with PGC, ONOC, and other regional and international sports groups, as they are our valuable partners in our efforts to provide opportunities for our athletes, coaches, and officials, and help NMI level up in sports in the region," Sablan said. ***(PR)***

NEARLY

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(nearly the same number in the afternoon). I'm happy with the turnout. We had good participation, people enjoyed it, and they said they found some benefits. Whether it's one person or 100 people if they found benefit that's why we do it," he said.

Bellama is happy that he was able to share tips on how to prevent running injuries to local running enthusiasts.

"It's a tool that can help you be successful [in running]. Some people don't need all the tools to be successful. Some people need a little bit of help and assistance. The goal is to teach them help themselves instead of getting hurt and relying on the health services here because it's tough to get everything you need here sometimes and it's easier to help yourself."

When asked if there will be more running workshops in the future, Bellama said if there's a demand for it he will be willing to conduct more.

"If there's enough demand and people find value in it then I'm happy to do it a few more times. Run Saipan came to me and they asked if I could do this and if they have enough people who are interested, then we will do some more," he said.

Run Saipan president Edward Dela Cruz Jr. said Bellama was able to answer a lot of questions that the local running community has been inquiring for years.

"All the information T.J. put out was amazing for the community. He answered so many questions and debunked a lot of running myths out there. It was T.J. that came forward with wanting to do it. We merely just assisted by advertising it and get the word out there and handling the registration for it. Run Saipan would like to thank Dr. Bellama for giving his precious time out there to help people prevent injury in the sport of running. He didn't gain anything from this. He just wanted to help people as did we."

Dela Cruz also thanked the TSL Foundation for sponsoring Run Saipan's first running clinic and thanked the runners that came out to the clinic and made donations to the nonprofit organization.

"Thank you also to Eucon Medical for hosting the venue. Thank you very much to everyone and stay tuned for the next one," he added.

Run Saipan vice president Jiayi Kong also extended her gratitude to Bellama for holding the running workshop and said a lot of participants learned something new on how to run more efficiently and avoid injury.

"I think a lot of runners are interested in injury prevention and T.J. has so much experience and this is a perfect way for us to learn more about that. I'm very pleased with the turnout and I'm hopeful that we can get more running workshops in the future because we got full signups for both workshops," she said.

Run Saipan secretary/treasurer Dr. Ron Snyder said the workshop was a great introduction to the biomechanical concerns of running.

"I hope this is the first of many workshops that Run Saipan is able to offer. Nutrition, performance, heat acclimation—there are so many things that we could build into our offerings. I was very interested in the conversation on foot strike patterns and have been applying that to my own running and coaching. The workshop was a great starting point for some deeper research," he said.

Malou Carlos, who just recently completed the virtual Boston Marathon, was very pleased that she took part in "The Right Way to Run for YOU" workshop.

"The presentation was very helpful to the running community. Especially, now that I am nursing a knee injury. I'm already doing some exercises as he suggested," she said.

Floro Derexes, for his part, said the workshop was very good in identifying your run technique and how you can fix your deficiencies. "The floor exercises and those on the treadmill were really an eye-opener in finding out your injuries and what kind of runner you are so you can fix your technique."

Soler, Braves overcome Morton injury, top Astros in Game 1

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

CNMI fans seem to favor Braves in World Series

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NMSA strengthens ties with int'l orgs

The Northern Marianas Sports Association has been actively involved in events and related activities organized by international and regional sports groups it has affiliation with to strengthen their partnership and seek guidance for upcoming ventures.

Early this month, NMSA president Jerry Tan, secretary general Valerie Hofschneider, and executive director Carline Sablan attended the Oceania National Olympic Committees General Assembly held virtually. ONOC has 17 full member-countries and five associate members, including the NMI, which is represented by NMSA.

The Oct. 9 assembly, discussed among others, the ONOC-member countries' success in the Tokyo Olympics as well as the Pacific Games Council reports on upcoming competitions, including the Pacific Mini Games 2022 that the CNMI will be hosting and the 2023 Pacific Games in the Solomon Islands. The meeting also touched on International Olympic Committee and National Olympic relations and IOC members' reports, which are very timely, as NMSA has reiterated it will continue its Olympic quest.

"Any information on IOC and NOC will definitely provide us additional insights on how we can move forward with our bid to gain membership to the Olympic family," Tan said.

He added that discussions on the Tokyo Games, particularly the challenges on delegates' safety amid the pandemic that organizers and participants managed to overcome, are very helpful as the NMI prepares for the hosting of the Pacific Mini Games next year.

Before the ONOC assembly, NMSA and its member federations also attended a workshop that will assist the islands in its hosting duties for the 2022 Mini Games and beyond. Tan, Sablan, and representatives of 10 federations took the Management in Sports Organization course conducted by ONOC and the Guam National Olympic Committee officials.

Then last weekend, Sablan joined NMSA vice president and Northern Marianas Athletics president Ramon Tebuteb at the virtual Oceania Athletics Association Congress as an observer.

Next month, NMSA along with the Northern Marianas Pacific Games Organizing Committee are invited to the PGC General Assembly set for Nov. 5 and 6. Included on the agenda for the assembly are the pro-

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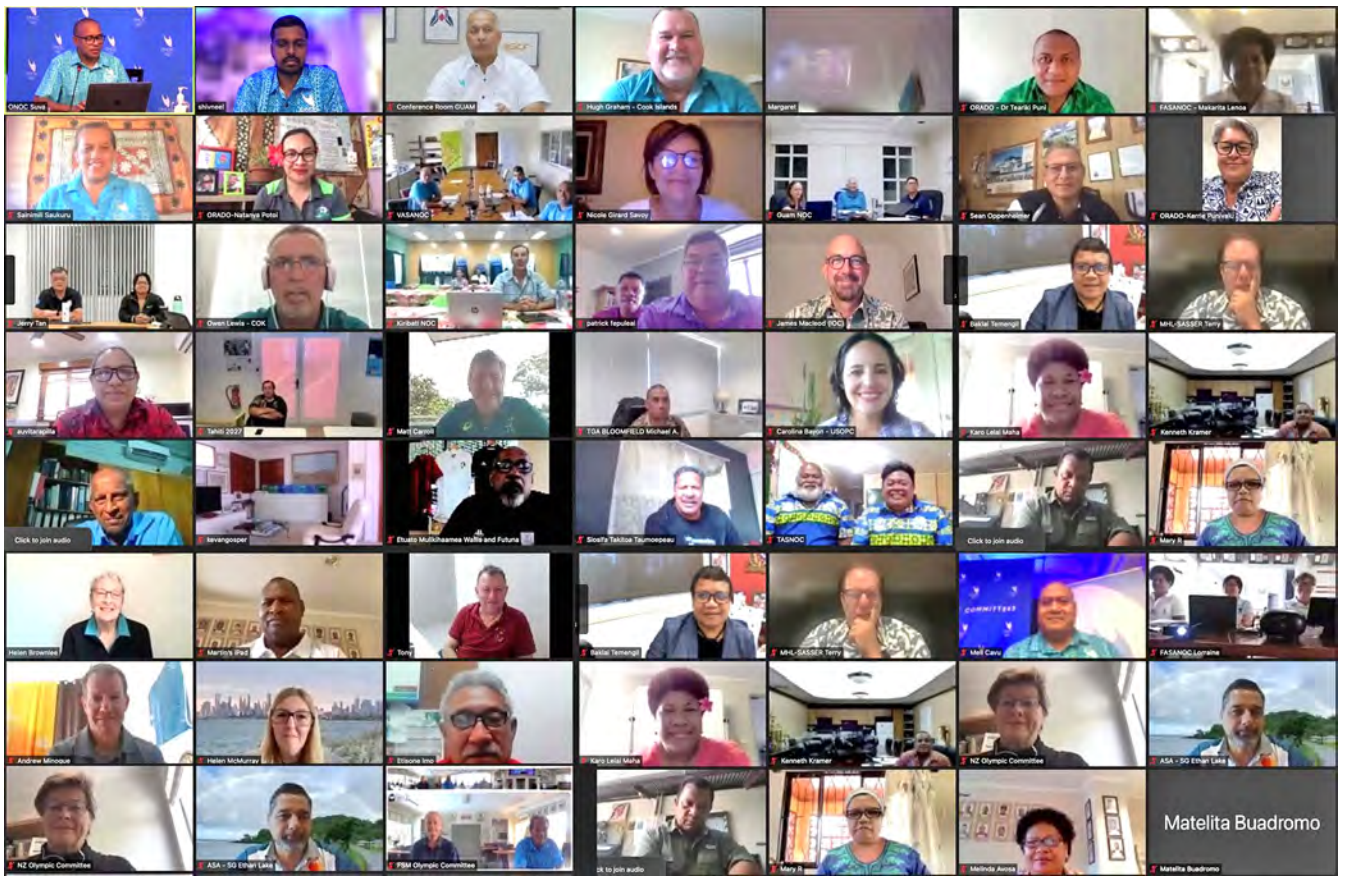

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A screen grab of the Oceania National Olympic Committees General Assembly held last Oct. 9 shows Northern Marianas Sports Association president Jerry Tan and secretary general Valerie Hofschneider, third row left, join delegates from more than 20 countries in Oceania and Pacific for a group photo after the event.

Nearly 30 participants learn 'right way to run'

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Local runners were given a crash course on the right way to run and how to prevent injuries during a workshop conducted by board-certified orthopedic specialist Dr. T.J. Bellama.

Dubbed "The Right Way to Run for YOU" workshop, nearly 30 participants attended the two workshops—first from 10am to 12pm and the second from 1pm to 3pm—held last Saturday at the Eucon Medical Health Services along Middle Road in Gualo Rai.

Bellama first talked about the difference among forefoot, midfoot, and heel strike running and advised runners that they should purchase shoes according to the way they run.

He also showed runners how to detect and correct a crossover gait to help them run more efficiently and avoid future injuries. Titling your upper body a few degrees forward and shortening your stride to lessen the pressure on your knees also go a long way in preventing the wear and tear on your body caused by running. Generally, running not more than 20 miles a week is an optimum way to avoid injuries from running, added Bellama.

The orthopedic specialist was quite satisfied with the turnout for the two workshops.

"We had 14-15 this morning

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MARK RABAGO

Dr. T.J. Bellama, left, poses with participants of the afternoon session of "The Right Way to Run for YOU" workshop last Saturday at the Eucon Medical Health Services along Middle Road in Gualo Rai.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The NMI Boys U18 National Team's Phillip Megino runs after the ball during their Week 1 game against Kanoa Football Club last Thursday in the MSL Cup of the Marianas Soccer League Fall Season 2021 at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville. The NMI U18 players returned to the pitch last Sunday and defeated the Old B Bank, 7-0.

NMI U18, TanHoldings ease past foes

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The NMI Boys U18 National Team and TanHoldings Football Club coasted past their respective opponents to share the early lead in the MSL Cup of the Marianas Soccer League Fall Season 2021.

The NMI U18 walloped the Old B Bank, 7-0, in the penultimate match last Sunday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville, while TanHoldings hammered Paire Football Club in similar scores. TanHoldings and the NMI U18 now hold identical 2-0-0 win-draw-loss record, while Paire dropped to a 1-0-1 mark, and the Old B Bank absorbed its second loss in as many games.

Six different players scored for TanHoldings, which also got an own goal in the sec-

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